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THE STORY OF THE ❀  
NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS  
IN LITERATURE ❀



THE STORY OF THE  
NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS  
IN LITERATURE

BY

**A. K. SEYNE**

WITH A FOREWORD

BY

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## FOREWORD

This is a book about literary giants. There are many more whom the Nobel laurel has not reached. But that those of whom this small volume speaks are all distinguished admits of no doubts. It can be no easy task to select every year a recipient of this prize ; but the selectors who have to range over the entire world have done their task well. Surprise has been expressed from time to time at the omission of some honoured names from the list of Nobel laureates, and it is inevitable that some just claims will be overlooked. But who that looks at the names of the writers who have so far been chosen will venture to doubt their eminence? Some of them may seem to be uninteresting as men : their work may leave one cold, unmoved, unresponsive ; others may seem unattractive, even maybe repulsive ; and yet others may charm one as with the voice of a siren, making one deaf to all other sounds, claiming one's undivided allegiance and

warm affection. But all conform to the test prescribed by the Statutes: that their work should have an idealistic tendency. Each reader has his own favourites, but it is good mental discipline to read the works of authors who do not draw us in the beginning. We shall be amply rewarded by the effort to read them. Contact with them will warm and kindle the mind. Many unsuspected ideals of virtue, new notions of truth, fresh means of approach to human nature, a wider sympathy, unusual forms of humour, taste, sentiment, the dreams of different nations—with all these we shall become familiar as we go through the works of those master-minds of our own day who have been declared to be of the world's 'elect'.

Mr. Seyne's book will serve as an admirable introduction. It contains the terms of Nobel's will, and a very interesting account of the ceremony of the first presentation. It is not easy generally to get this information so accurately. Then Mr. Seyne proceeds to write short sketches of the literary careers of the Literature Prize Winners. We are told some of the more important particulars relating to their life and in each

case there is a fairly full bibliography of their published works. Journalists, librarians, and students of literature are sure to find this a valuable work of reference. Mr. Seyne is himself a writer whose first book was well received on publication several years ago. It is gratifying that in the midst of his exacting duties he has been able to produce this volume.

May 5, 1934.

Amaranatha Jha.

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## AUTHOR'S STORY

A printed copy of "The Story of the Nobel Prize Winners in Literature" is lying before me. Before setting out on this new journey, it expects of me, perhaps a few lines by way of a preface. What should I say? Is not the title of the book itself sufficiently explicit to indicate the bill of fare, the kind readers are expected to be provided with? If I have to say something just to please my readers, I should say at the very outset that I had no sort of literary training, my only qualification is that 'My days among the Dead are past'. All that I did was that I kept a note-book wherein I jotted down news about persons and events connected with the Nobel Prizes ever since Dr. Rabindranath Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize (1913). It will not be quite out of place to mention here that for several years The Pioneer Library belonging to the "The Pioneer" of Allahabad, one of the

oldest and leading Anglo-Indian Journals of India was under my charge. I therefore, had no difficulty in getting newspaper-cuttings on the subject in which I was thus interested. I was also fortunate to get all the latest catalogues and announcements from the leading publishers of Europe. Besides these, I always kept at hand a set of the latest "Reference Catalogue of Current Literature" published by J. Whitaker and Sons, Ltd., London. The Index volume of this Reference Catalogue is a wonderful publication, it is one of the finest examples of human labour, patience, tact, and ingenuity.

Thus equipped, I supplied from time to time, many informations about the Nobel Prize Winners and their books to many of the inquisitive readers in our Public Library. In my spare hours I found some pleasure in preparing the biographical sketches of the Nobel Prize Winners in Literature from the materials at my disposal and also from wide reading. But this book would never have seen the light if I had not one day accidentally come across with an old issue of the "Times Literary Supplement," London. As I glanced through it, I found an interesting

review on "The Life of Alfred Nobel" by H. Schuck and R. Sohlman (Heinemann). After reading this review I became curious to know more about Alfred Nobel, the Inventor of Dynamite and the Founder of the Nobel Prizes. By going through Smithsonian Papers and other scientific books; I soon collected enough material to prepare a short sketch of the life of Alfred Nobel. Even at this stage I knew nothing about the Statutes of the Nobel Foundation. I often thought of writing to the Secretary of the Swedish Academy for a copy of the Statutes, but each time, I took up my pen, I postponed to write till the next mail was due. Again the hand of Providence came to my rescue. The recent earthquakes damaged the whole of our beautiful library buildings and the archives in which the literary magazines are kept, the rain-water spoilt some of the old issues of the Calcutta Review, and the issues of 1901 and 1902 particularly were so much spoilt that I was about to discard them and strike them off our Library Catalogue but before doing so I looked into the middle portions of both of these issues, which were fairly well preserved and to my great amazement and delight, I found not only

the complete version of the Nobel Statutes but also the interesting accounts of the ceremonies at Christiania and Stockholm by an eye witness, Mr. A. L. Holmes, which have been included in this book for the perusal of my readers. And another reason for their inclusion in this book, is, that the old issues of the Calcutta Review are not easily available even in most of the big libraries in India.

In preparing the chronological list of the Nobel Laureates I again had some doubts and difficulties as to the placing of exact dates against some of the recipients. I went to "Kitabistan" to see some of the issues of Whitaker's Almanac, when my friend, Mr. M. K. Rehman, the proprietor of "Kitabistan" immediately placed into my hands a copy of "List of Nobel Laureates," 1933. This List not only settled some of the dates but also supplied the Inscription with the Nobel Prize Award in Literature of each year since 1901. For these Inscriptions, I express my gratitude to the Svenaska Akademien Nobel institut of Stockholm, and also for the Statutes of the Nobel Foundation though obtained from indirect sources.

The other sources of information are emphasized in the text and footnotes. In each biographical sketch what particular work made its author most famous has been indicated and at the end of each sketch, a list of the author's principal works has been added as an incentive to further study.

THE AUTHOR

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ALLAHABAD (INDIA).  
JUNE, 1934.

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# CONTENTS

	PAGE
Foreword           ...           ...           ...	v
Author's Story                   ...           ...	viii
The Story of Alfred Bernhard Nobel's Life...	3
Nobel Centenary                   ...           ...	14
The Story of the First Peace-Prize Award	
Ceremony of Christiania   ...           ...	19
Henri Dunant and Frederie Passy   ...   ...	25
The Story of the First Scientific and Literary Awards : •	
Ceremony of Stockholm   ...           ...	31
How to apply for a Nobel Prize...	47
Statutes of the Nobel Foundation :	
Objects of the Foundation   ...           ...	51
The Administration of the Foundation...	65
Alterations in the Code   ...           ...	71
Temporary Regulations   ...           ...	72
Special Regulations for the Section of Literature :	
The Nobel Prize in Literature                   ...	75
The Nobel Literary Institute                   ...	76
The Special Fund for Literature               ...	76

	PAGE
The Origin of the Swedish Academy ...	77
Chronological List of Nobel Laureates ...	81
Biographical Sketches of the Nobel Prize Winners in Literature:	
Sully-Prudhomme ... (1901) ...	85
Theodor Mommsen ... (1902) ...	89
Bjornstjerne Bjornson ... (1903) ...	93
Frederic Mistral ... (1904) ...	97
Jose Echegaray ... (1904) ...	101
Henryk Sienkiewicz ... (1905) ...	103
Giosue Carducci ... (1906) ...	105
Rudyard Kipling ... (1907) ...	107
Rudolf Eucken ... (1908) ...	116
Selma Lagerlof ... (1909) ...	119
Paul Johann Ludwig Heyse... (1910) ...	123
Maurice Maeterlinck ... (1911) ...	126
Gerhart Hauptmann ... (1912) ...	131
Rabindranath Tagore ... (1913) ...	135
Romain Rolland ... (1915) ...	150
Verner von Heidenstam ... (1916) ...	155
Karl Gjellerup ... (1917) ...	157
Henrik Pontoppidan ... (1917) ...	160
Carl Spitteler ... (1919) ...	162

	PAGE
Knut Hamsun ... (1920) ...	166
Anatole France ... (1921) ...	170
Jacinto Benavente ... (1922) ...	176
William Butler Yeats ... (1923) ...	179
Wladyslas St. Reymont ... (1924) ...	184
George Bernard Shaw ... (1925) ...	186
Grazia Deledda ... (1926) ...	191
Henri Bergson ... (1927) ...	193
Sigrid Undset ... (1928) ...	196
Thomas Mann ... (1929) ...	199
Sinclair Lewis ... (1930) ...	202
Erik Axel Karlfeldt ... (1931) ...	206
John Galsworthy ... (1932) ...	207
Ivan Alexeyevich Bunin ... (1933) ...	212

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**THE STORY OF   ❖**  
**ALFRED BERNHARD**  
**NOBEL'S LIFE     ❖**



## THE STORY OF ALFRED BERNHARD NOBEL'S LIFE

THE purpose of this little book is to give a short and authentic account of the books and persons of the Nobel Prize Winners in Literature. But at the very outset we deem it proper to relate the wonderful career of Alfred Bernhard Nobel whose very name now inspires the hearts of many inventive scientists and thought-provoking writers. Since Dr. Rabindranath Tagore and Sir C. V. Raman; the two illustrious sons of India, have carried the Nobel-laurels to our shores, the name of Alfred Nobel has almost become a household word in India. It may appear very strange to many people that Alfred Nobel, the inventor of Dynamite, should ever think of allotting a Peace Prize. Those who closely study the life of Alfred Nobel, will find that his love for explosives came down

from father to son. As a boy takes pleasure in fireworks so he and his brothers took pleasure in high explosives. But they never meant any harm ; they wanted the weapon of death to be rather a source of life. Alfred Nobel's explosives were originally intended for the development of the mining industries of the world, such as, the removal of the mountains that obstruct the path ; blasting of the rock and earth that separate the ocean ; setting up of a network of railways. To their uses as armament or munitions of war, his mind turned later.

Nobel was fully convinced that Science by making war more destructive, more horrible, would make war next to impossible. His own view is embodied in the following lines which he wrote to Bertha von Suttner when she pressed him hard to attend the Berne Peace Congress in 1892 :—

“ My factories may end war sooner than your congresses. On the day when two army corps will be able to destroy each other in one second, all civilized countries will recoil from war in horror and disband their armies.”

The World-War of 1914 has amply testified to what he said so far back as in 1892. This war has forcibly brought upon all the paramount Powers of the world to determine the Question of "Disarmament" which is a new thing in the pages of the history of the world. Who will deny that Alfred Nobel, the inventor of Dynamite, had the visions of a prophet?

Alfred Nobel was born at Stockholm on October 21, 1833. His father, Immanuel Nobel was himself an eminent engineer and inventor. 'Plywood' which is now so extensively used in making furniture and other useful wooden articles was one of Immanuel's inventions. He wanted to employ this Plywood for a novel purpose. He devised a coffin that a dead person coming to life while closed in it could raise the lid which was provided with airholes and had a bell with a cord attached for communication with the living world. Such a person could never stick to one place and as he was anxious to come in contact with the Russian Government, so in 1837 he emigrated with his family to

St. Petersburg. There he soon attracted the attention of the Russian Government by his highly developed submarines and subterranean mines. The Russian Government rewarded him handsomely to enable him to set up a laboratory for carrying on his experiments further.

Immanuel with his sons now devoted his whole time and energy in improving the quality of explosives and made many successful experiments with that object in the preparation of nitro-glycerine. The credit for inventing nitro-glycerine is given to an Italian scientist, Sobrero, who in 1847 treated glycerine with nitric acid and produced nitro-glycerine, which 'won a tragic notoriety under the name of blasting oil. For it was a very delicate chemical compound, and it exploded with the least shock---A ship carrying some of the oil to Chili was blown up; and the event caused such a sensation that it seemed as though the use of nitro-glycerine would be entirely forbidden throughout the civilised world.\* At such a juncture Alfred Nobel appeared on the scene and

\*Harmsworth's Popular Science, Vol. IV, P. 2402.

applied himself to remedy that defect. He perceived the necessity of transforming blasting oil into a solid, and with that purpose, he mixed it with a sand (Kieselgurh), that absorbed its own weight of the explosive. In 1862 he patented it as Dynamite. But a tale of tragedy is attached to this invention. One day while he was making experiments with the deadly compound, a terrible explosion took place in his manufactory in which his youngest brother, Oscar, to whom he was devotedly attached, lost his life.

But Nobel was not yet content with what he discovered. He wanted a substance which by mixing with nitro-glycerine would form some kind of paste, he tried with several kind of chemicals, to get the desired substance, but to no effect. One day the luck turned in his favour under peculiar circumstances. While carrying on his usual experiments, he accidentally cut his finger when he immediately applied a few drops of collodion to form a plaster on the skin. It just flashed out in his mind why he should not mix some collodion with nitro-glycerine and see the result. Collodion



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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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is nothing but some gun-cotton dissolved in ether, when this solution is combined with camphor, it becomes celluloid. Nobel omitted camphor and obtained a mixture of gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine which when tried was found exceedingly safe and at the same time very powerful. With further modification it was patented in 1876 as blasting gelatine.

Yet another important invention Nobel was destined to make. By increasing the proportion of nitro-cellulose in its combination with nitro-glycerine he invented the smokeless powder which is now used in every country and in every army.

In 1865 a regular company was started at Hamburg under the name of Nobel & Co. This company had some German partners. Six years later a French Company was formed of which Nobel was the sole proprietor. This French Company set up a branch at Porto-Vendres on the Mediterranean. Another branch was set up in Scotland at Ardeer 'where it is said a tenth part of all the nitro-glycerine employed throughout the world is prepared.'

Nobel subsequently united with his elder brothers in founding a company for developing the oil wells of Baku. Alfred Nobel and his brothers though earned huge sums of money every year, were never loth to spend money, whether big or small, for the regeneration of the world.

Volumes would be necessary to chronicle the life of such a person. To add here anything more lies within the scope of a proper biography by some competent biographers. Happily such biographers have already been found in H. Schuck and R. Sohlman. *The Life of Alfred Nobel* (Heinemann : 21s. net) has been written by them with great tact and sympathy.

Alfred Nobel, when once asked by one of his brothers, Ludwig, to write his autobiography, he wrote thus :

“Alfred Nobel : His miserable existence should have been terminated at birth by a humane doctor as he drew his first howling breath. Principal virtues : keeping his nails clean and never being a burden to anyone. Principal faults : that he has no family, is bad tempered

and has a poor digestion. One and only wish : not to be buried alive. Greatest sin : that he does not worship Mammon. Important events in his life : none."

Though written in playfulness, there is nothing untrue in it. These are the sincerest expressions coming straight from the heart. It may be stated here that Nobel's father did not survive long after Oscar's death. We have already related elsewhere that Oscar met a violent death in a terrible explosion. His mother however, died at an advanced age. Whenever he was free from his multifarious duties, he devoted all his attention to the care and comforts of his aged mother. Such a model son is rarely to be seen. He remained unmarried to the end of his life, and was, therefore, free to dedicate his life to the services of his country and fellowmen.

He was extremely kind and generous to his workmen whose number amounted to some 25,000.

He made no distinction between the Swedish and the Norwegians, and in consequence he entrusted the award of the prizes for Science

under his foundation to the learned institutions of his countrymen and left the responsible task of awarding the prize for peace to the Norwegians.

He bequeathed an immense fortune, nearly £2,000,000, ( the total sum amounted to 46,000,000 francs, ) that after reductions by taxation, etc., realised about £1,680,000. That sum invested at 3 per cent. brought in about £50,000 per annum, or £10,000 for each of its five prizes. Owing to deductions arising from the cost of administration and other expenses, the sum yearly allotted to each prize does not exceed £8,000 which he disposed of in the following way : “ The capital should be transformed to a fund of which the yearly interest should be distributed in prizes to those, who, during the year preceding their award, had benefited mankind the most. The interest of the capital was to be divided into five equal parts, of which one part should be bestowed on the person, who had made the most important discovery or improvement in physics ; a second part was to be bestowed for a similar success in chemistry ;

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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a third was reserved for the greatest discovery in physiology or medicine, a fourth should be bestowed on the man of letters, whose works were the most remarkable from the ideal point of view ; and a fifth part was to be given to the most efficient promoter of the fraternization of nations and of abolition or diminution of standing armies, who had also been the most active in assembling and popularizing peace congresses. The prizes for physics and chemistry should both be awarded by the Academy of Sciences at Stockholm. The prize for physiology or medicine was to be conferred by the Caroline Medical Institute on the same capital. The prize for literature should be decided by the Swedish Academy, while the champion of peace should be rewarded by a Committee of five persons that were to be appointed by the Norwegian Parliament." "It is my express wish," so Nobel worded his testament, "that in the distribution of the prizes, nationality should not be taken into consideration, so that the worthiest may gain the prize, whether he be Scandinavian or not."

For further details please see "Statutes of the Nobel Foundation" given elsewhere in this book.

Alfred Nobel died on the tenth of December, 1896 at San Remo.

## NOBEL CENTENARY

In connection with the Nobel Centenary, the following resume of his life has appeared in the 'Scientific American' of October, 1933 :

"October 21, 1933, marks the Centenary of the birth of Alfred Bernhard Nobel at Stockholm, Sweden. Volumes would be necessary to chronicle his life and adequately appraise the tremendous contributions his work has made and continues to make to world progress.

"In 1893, when the University of Upsala conferred upon Nobel the honorary degree of doctor of philosophy, the request for his autobiography resulted in this brief memoir : 'The undersigned was born October 21, 1833 ; he acquired his knowledge in private studies, and did not attend any secondary school. He devoted himself particularly to applied chemistry,

and discovered explosives known under the names of dynamite, and smokeless powder, called ballistite and C. 89. Since 1884, he has been a member of the Royal Society (London), and the Societe des Ingenieurs Civils in Paris. Since 1880, he has been a Knight of the Nordstjarne Order. He is an officer of the Legion of Honor. Sole publication ; a lecture in the English language, which was awarded a silver medal.'

“Equally as brief, but justly claiming more for Nobel than he did in the sketch prepared by himself, is the summary of his life and notable activities in the History of the Explosives Industry in America, from which is quoted as follows : ‘ Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833—1896) was a world-renowned genius. He was born in Sweden ; educated in America and Russia ; the founder of the high explosives industry ; the first successfully to manufacture and use nitro-glycerine as a blasting agent ; discoverer of dynamite, one of the greatest boons to the advancement of civilization the world has known since the printing press was invented ; and resident dynamite manufacturer in Sweden,



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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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Germany, Great Britain, France, and Italy. The great need of improved explosives in his time is shown by the ease with which he established explosives factories in every prominent mining and industrial country of that date. Nobel also invented blasting-gelatine, gelatine-dynamite, and a smokeless powder called ballistite.....'

"Nobel made a large fortune in Russian oil and, at his death in 1896, left 9,000,000 dollars for the founding of the Nobel Prize Fund. The interest on the money is used yearly for five awards of approximately , 40,000 dollars each, to those judged to have contributed most to the benefit of mankind during the preceding year by achievements in chemistry, physics, medicine, literature, and peace."

**THE STORY OF THE**

**FIRST PEACE-PRIZE**

**AWARD**      ❀      ❀

**(CEREMONY OF CHRISTIANIA)**



## CEREMONY OF CHRISTIANIA

WE have already mentioned that Nobel entrusted the Norwegians the responsible task of adjudging the prize for peace. The ceremony of the distribution of the prize for peace which took place for the first time at Christiania, the Norwegian Capital, on the 10th of December, 1901 was not only impressive but also was very first of its kind. Mr. Arthur L. Holmes, the writer of the "Ceremony of Christiania" and the "Ceremony of Stockholm" was personally present at one of these Ceremonies. His articles on the festivals, written on the spot and for the first time published in the 'Calcutta Review' of 1902 will be read even now with interest by all scholars.

Mr. Arthur L. Holmes in describing the Ceremony of Christiania says that the Norwegian capital had long anticipated it with

a certain feeling of pride. The Parliament of Norway had been entrusted with the honourable task of choosing the Committee that should award the prize for peace, the great and novel feature of the Nobel-foundation. It was the general opinion that Dunant, the originator of the Red-Cross of Geneva, would be the successful candidate. Though the Red-Cross had been conspicuous on every field of battle that had been fought within the last quarter of a century, yet the noble name of its designer was all but forgot. It was rumoured that he was in straitened circumstances, neglected and forlorn, there was the more reason therefore for a splendid and substantial recognition of his services to succour his declining years. Still there was a doubt about his success ; however meritorious was his work in mitigating the horrors of war by his care for the wounded, he had not directly laboured to abolish standing armies, or to assemble Peace-Conferences, as the regulation for the award of the prize prescribed ; yet through his humanity for the wounded irrespective of nationality, it could

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## CEREMONY OF CHRISTIANIA

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he said that he had indirectly promoted the fraternity of nations.

The name of Passy was also mentioned in connection with the prize for peace, and the supposition that the award would ignore neither of these candidates was justified by the event.

The town had the aspect of a quiet *féte*. The festivity was enhanced by the presence of the German fleet that had arrived a few days before. It was the most powerful fleet that had ever approached Christiania, and it was the object of general interest, even if the immense battle-ships did not harmonize with the peaceful character of the occasion. The actual ceremony commenced at the unusually early hour of 10 o'clock in the *Storting* or Norwegian House of Parliament. Nearly all its members were present, and the majority bore the national order, the Cross of St. Olaf with its broad majenta ribband. As the ladies who were present wore a quiet morning toilette, the cross and ribband were perhaps the sole ornamental features of the festival that was distinguished by its sober character, by the complete absence

of all pomp, especially of the pomp of war, an absence that was in harmony with the great homage paid to peace. Not a uniform was to be seen. Even Prince Henry of Russia, the brother of the German Emperor, wore plain clothes. The Royal Family was represented by Prince Charles, the King's third son, and Princess Ingeberg ( of Denmark ), his wife.

The committee, to whom the task devolved of awarding the prize, took their places in front of the speaker's desk. That body, which, as we have already mentioned, consisted of five members, included, Steen, - the Norwegian Prime Minister, Loevland, one of the Ministers of State, and Bjornson, the poet.

The speaker ( Ar. Berner ) opened the ceremony with a pithy speech : "The Norwegian people," he said, " has ever been minded to maintain its independence, and has ever been willing to defend it. But at the same time a lively inclination and desire for peace has permeated that people. In peace and good understanding with other nations our country has wished to work for its intellectual and material develop-

ment. This main thought has repeatedly and with increasing force found expression through Norway's Parliament.

"Time after time that Parliament has pronounced in favour of the conclusion of treaties of peace and arbitration with foreign powers, in order to prevent disputes from being decided by an appeal to arms and to ensure a righteous decision by peaceable ways.

"We may well believe that this inclination and lively desire of the Norwegian people for peace, and a good understanding between nations, a sentiment which has thus found expression through our National Assembly induced Dr. Alfred Nobel to confide to the Parliament of Norway through the agency of five chosen men the honourable task of awarding the prize to the man who has shown that he is most deserving through his labours in behalf of peace and brotherhood among nations.

"To-day when the prize for peace is to be awarded for the first time, our thoughts turn in reverent gratitude towards the man, who was high-minded enough, and had foresight



enough to raise the great problems of civilization,—and among them in the first rank the work for peace and fraternity of nations,—to the foremost place of honour. It is our hope that what he has done to promote this great object may lead to a result that will correspond to the giver's noble intention."

The Chairman of the Nobel-Committee then announced that it awarded the prize for peace to Henri Dunant and Frederic Passy, who should share its value.

After a few additional words by the speaker of the house in which he expressed the hope that the event of that day "might encourage the nations and in the first place national assemblies to strive through co-operation to promote peace and arbitration between the peoples" the brief ceremony came to an end, amid the approval of the spectators at the choice of the Committee. The whole affair, which scarcely lasted half an hour, was distinguished by its simplicity and at the same time dignity.

## HENRI DUNANT & FREDERIC PASSY

THE career of Henri Dunant that was bound up in the foundation of the Red-Cross Society, has already been indicated. With regard to Frederic Passy, who shared the prize, we may mention that he was born at Paris in 1822 (he is therefore a little older than Dunant who was born in 1828, at Geneva). He was educated as a jurist, but early devoted his attention to the study of scientific and economical questions. At the age of twenty-six he wrote a book, in which the reforms that during the last decades have taken place in French schools were advocated. With the help of a few colleagues he established a course of lectures on political and social questions and travelled through the French provinces in order to deliver them. He acquired great consideration among his countrymen in that way. It was partly owing

to the influence his talented pen exercised that war was averted between France and Prussia about Luxemburg towards the close of the Empire. He then founded the "international and permanent league of peace," the name of which was changed later to "the French Union of the Friends of Peace" at the head of which society he continued to preside. He has always laboured for the cause of peace as well as for the diffusion of knowledge and enlightenment. He was one of the first to conceive the thought that the parliament of the world should unite to avert war. He was thus the principal founder of the Interparliamentary Union of Peace and Arbitration, was its first president in 1888 and 1889 and has always been one of its most active members.

In this connection, it will not be out of place to mention here that "Provision is made that any prize may be reserved for one year; if not then distributed, the amounts revert to the main fund, or special reserves for each section. The peace prize has been reserved most frequently and special Nobel institutes have been created

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## CEREMONY OF CHRISTIANIA

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from the surplus funds. Another provision is :  
‘ The amount allotted to one prize may be divided equally between two works submitted, should each of such works be deemed to merit a prize.’ In 1904 the peace prize was awarded to the Institute of International Law, which marked the beginning of bestowing a prize upon a society rather than an individual.”\*

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\* Ency. Britannica, 14th edition.



**THE STORY OF THE ❀  
FIRST SCIENTIFIC AND  
LITERARY AWARDS ❀  
(CEREMONY OF STOCKHOLM)**



## CEREMONY OF STOCKHOLM

Mr. Arthur L. Holmes was present at the Ceremony of Christiania and for that reason was prevented from attending the proceedings at Stockholm. But he says that the Ceremony of Stockholm was far longer and more elaborate than the Ceremony that took place on the same day at Christiania. There were four prizes to be awarded ; the number of the candidates was of course larger ; and instead of one small legislative body, represented by a single Committee there were three learned bodies, represented by as many Committees, that participated in the award. The large hall of the Academy of Music was the scene of the festival. The most distinguished members of Stockholm Society, including the Crown-Prince attended ; and the interest of the occasion was still further enhanced by the presence of the prize winners



with the exception of the French poet, who had won the palm for literature.

The Ceremony commenced with a festival overture that was conducted by the Chief Court Director of Music. Bostrom, the Prime Minister, and President of the Nobel-foundation, next addressed the company in a long speech in which he pointed out the merits of the founder Wirsén, a poet and member of the Swedish Academy ( that corresponds to the French Academy ), then recited a poem of his own composition in which he feelingly alluded to the honour and responsibility that had befallen Sweden through the nobility of her great son. A choir of men's voices under the leadership of a second musical director, sung one of the favourite songs of Sweden and the award of the prizes began.

The first was the prize for physics. Odhner, the President of the Swedish Academy of Science, announced that Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen was the successful candidate owing to the discovery with which his name is knitted —of the Roentgen rays, or as their discoverer preferred to call them of the X-rays.

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## CEREMONY OF STOCKHOLM

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In the course of his address the President remarked that the real nature of the radiation of energy was still unknown, but that many characteristic qualities of that energy had been discovered first by Roentgen and subsequently by other physicists who had devoted their researches to the subject. He thought that there was little doubt, but that the physical sciences would make far more extensive acquisitions, when that peculiar form of energy was more adequately investigated and its wide sphere thoroughly examined. He remarked in conclusion that the reward of the discoverer with a Nobel prize must be considered in an eminent grade corresponding to the legator's views. He then addressed Roentgen, who sat in the platform with the remaining prize winners, and taking his hand, led him off to the Crown-Prince, who amid prolonged applause handed to the famous discoverer a diploma in an artistic binding.

Odhuver next announced that the prize for chemistry was awarded to Jacobus Henricus Van't Hoff for his epoch-making work in

osmotic pressure and chemical dynamics. "Through his investigations," continued the speaker "of the theory of atoms and on the subject of molecules, Van't Hoff has made the most important discoveries for the theory of chemistry that have been made since Dalton's time.

"First with regard to the theory of atoms Van't Hoff, adhering to a thought omitted by Pasteur had established the hypotheses of fixed rallying points\* geometrically arranged in space, for elementary atoms; and that view as regards carburets, led to the theory of the asymmetry of carbonic atoms and to the foundation of stereo chemistry, Van't Hoff's discoveries in the theory of molecules were even more complete. The law, which is named after the Italian Avogadro and which determined that the number of gasmolecules in a given volume are alike for all gases, if the pressure and the temperature are the same, was developed through Van't Hoff's investigations, so that

\* In Swedish *antagringspunkter* : apparently a neologism, signifying literally ' building up ' or constructing.

it holds equally good for matter in solution ; provided that the pressure in the latter, the so-called osmotic pressure, is taken into consideration in the same way that it is with gas pressure. He demonstrated the identity of gas pressure and osmotic pressure ; and therewith the identity of the molecule in a gaseous state with the molecule in a solution ; whereby the molecular theory gained a consistency and validity that had not previously been suspected. He found, too, the expression for the chemical balance in transformations, and the electric motory force that reaction can produce ; he explained, too, the transitions between the elements' various modifications, between hydrates with different proportions of water, the formation of double salts, etc., etc.

“By the application of these simple principles originally derived from mechanics and thermal dynamics, Van't Hoff has been one of the founders of chemical dynamics. His investigations have essentially promoted the immense development of physical chemistry ; and in that sphere his discoveries have been met by

the great contribution that other researchers, even in our country,\* have made in electro-chemistry, and in the theory of chemical reaction. New and vast prospects have thus been opened for researches in natural science. In another respect the elucidation of the *status* in solutions has induced the greatest practical results of which the advantage for mankind will be best perceived, when we reflect that chemical reactions principally take place in solutions, and that the vital functions of living organisms are maintained through the transformations of matter that are effected in the solutions."

The next prize awarded was for medicine. Count Moerner, the Rector of the Caroline Institute at Stockholm and the Secretary of the Nobel-Committee appointed by that body, addressed the audience in a long speech, in which after referring to the interest that Nobel took in medical science, and the unexampled progress that that science had made in the second half of last century, which had been so fruitful in brilliant discoveries, he remarked that though

Sweden.

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## CEREMONY OF STOCKHOLM

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it was not possible even to indicate them by name, "it may be permitted me to mention bacteriology, and to remind you of Pasteur, the founder of that great system,—of Robert Koch, who, in the same department, has made such brilliant discoveries—of Lister, who has opened the way for the beneficent application of the new science to surgery." He emphasized the importance of bacteriology not only for surgery but for medicine. "Through our knowledge of *bacteria* as the *fosterers* of disease, and through our insight into their conditions of existence, the possibility has been disclosed of controlling disease even in cases in which *bacteria* have already succeeded in winning a firm foothold, and in developing themselves within the organism. And the most brilliant example of what has hitherto been attained in that respect is offered in diphtheria.

"So far back as the knowledge of human disease can be traced, diphtheria, and the variety of that disease, called *quinsy*, has been one of the scourges of humanity. At times, indeed, it has diminished, so that it has apparently

died out but always after the elapse of sometime, it has flickered up again, and often spread as a devastating epidemic of greater or less extent. For several decades it has now prevailed in the various countries of the civilized world." He then alluded to the terrible ravage of diphtheria in previous ages, and remarked that at the present time it was comparatively free from danger owing to the excellent weapon with which they were now armed against it.

"The year 1883 marks a turning point in the history of diphtheria. It is true that before that date the opinion had been held by a few that diphtheria was a disease, which was owing to *bacteria*, but on the other hand that view was contested by eminent specialists. There was, however, no positive knowledge in the subject, and the scientific explanation of problem was still lacking. Still less could it be said that we possessed any positive knowledge of the kind of parasite which fostered the disease."

In that year Loeffler completed his comprehensive and extremely important research

on the *bacteria* of diphtheria ; and that work has laid the foundation of the further development of the theory of the disease. Through Loeffler's work the enemy was thus compelled to throw off his mask, and he discloses his mode of warfare. To turn the enemy's weapon against himself was reserved for subsequent labours.

The *bacteria* fostering the disease produce in general poisons, and by their means infect the individual in which they are developed. It is on account of these poisons that *bacteria* become so dangerous. It has, however, showed itself that under advantageous conditions the poisons could cause the organism to foster substances, that would render them innocuous and even counteract the *bacteria's* development. The individual in whom such a state of "immunity" has developed itself can become unsusceptible for the *bacterium* in question, and at the same time be able to resist the effect of the poisons it generates. Science has succeeded in taking another step, that is of the utmost practical importance both with regard to diphtheria and other diseases. Blood



humour,—the matter that is called blood *serum*,—taken from an individual who has acquired immunity against the poison of a certain *bacterium* can, by its introduction into another individual's organism, enable him to resist that bacterium and its ravages. It is upon this principle, that modern serum-therapeutics are grounded. It is in combating diphtheria that *serum*-therapeutics have hitherto in the foremost place won such brilliant results; its importance is not, however, limited to that disease, but stretches infinitely beyond it. The sphere, that through the development of serum-therapeutics has been opened<sup>6</sup> to research is therefore—for the present time—beyond the power to survey. In that sphere much has been already done, and we are justified in expecting far greater progress.

It is to the pioneer of this new path of medical research, to Professor Emil von Behring, that the Caroline Institutes Preceptors' College, has decided to award the Medical Nobel-prize of the year.

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## CEREMONY OF STOCKHOLM

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As Count Moerner has dwelt so little on the actual career of Emil von Behring, we will venture to add a few words : He was born at Hansdorff in the year 1854, obtained the degree of M.D. in 1878, and served as a Military Doctor in Posen, Borr and Berlin, until he became (in 1889) an Assistant of the Hygienical Institute of the German Capital.

His great life-work was devoted to *serum*-therapeutic. In the year 1890 he prepared an effective *serum* against *tetanus* and shortly after he succeeded in producing a diphtheria *serum*, that is both prophylactic and curative in its effect. Numerous experiments have subsequently shown that this serum was as easy to apply as it was innocuous in its results. For his work on that subject "Enldeckung der Atiologischen oder Blutserum-terapis" (discovery in etiology or blood serum therapeutics) he received a prize of £1,800 from the Paris Academy of Medicine, at the same time as his French colleague and precursor Roux ; and a prize of £2,000 from the Academy of Sciences ( L'Institut ) in the same capital. Behring handed over his prize

to the State with the view of encouraging further research in *serum*-therapeutics. He subsequently published some classical and epoch-making works on the origin of contagious diseases and on their treatment and on the fruitful result of bacteriology for internal medicines.

The prize for literature was the last on the list. Wirsén to whom it fell to announce the award, remarked that literature also owed a debt of gratitude to Nobel, the award of the Nobel prize for that subject offered especial difficulties: "Literature was a comprehensive term. The Nobel statutes prescribe that under that head, where it was a question of defining the subjects for which a prize should be offered, not only *belles-lettres*, but other branches that have literary merit through their own form and style should be included. But thus the field was enlarged and the difficulties were increased. If it be already difficult to decide, when the candidates have equal merit, whether the prize should be awarded to a lyric, or epic, or dramatic poet, the task is still further complicated, when it imports to make a choice

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## CEREMONY OF STOCKHOLM

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between the merits of a distinguished historian or a great philosopher, or a gifted bard." Many excellent proposals had been made to the Swedish Academy with regard to the choice of candidates, but that body had selected from among the names of many who were almost equal in talent, one name that in their opinion should take precedence in the present occasion. It has awarded the first Nobel Prize for Literature to the "poet and thinker" Sully Prudhomme, member of the French Academy.

A few formalities ensued and the novel and momentous ceremony came to a conclusion. In the evening a banquet took place at which the prize winners were present, with the exception to which we have alluded. The Swedish Premier, Bostrom, drank the health of the King and Crown-Prince, the latter, in the course of his reply, thanked the Nobel-Committee for their responsible labours in which the whole civilized world had sympathized with high hopes and followed with an interest that was so well grounded. Wirsén made a speech in honour of

Sully Prudhomme, and turning to M. Marchand, the French Minister at Stockholm, he begged him to bring a greeting to the French Academy from its Swedish sister, that was now rejoiced to send from the land of Tegner and Geijer, prize of honour to the land of Racine, Corneille, and Victor Hugo.

Professor Behring, the winner of the prize for medicine, in reply to a speech of Count Moerner, laid stress on the greatness inherent to the Swedish national genius; it found an expression in ancient saga, in storied feats of war, and also in the present great work of peace.

Professor Cleve, the President of the Nobel-Committee, elected by the Swedish Academy of Science, to award the prize for chemistry, addressing Van't Hoff emphasized the fact that that prize was not bestowed merely for discoveries, but also for new theories, and at the same time cited Van't Hoff as illustrating the power of theories. The latter thanked the Swedish men of science, who had aided him in his researches and more particularly

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## CEREMONY OF STOCKHOLM

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Professor Cleve Pettersson and Arrhenius. He reminded his hearers that one of his most important treatises was published in the transactions of the Swedish Academy of Science.

Professor Roentgen, the winner of the prize for physics, made an interesting speech. "From his childhood," he said "he had been more familiar with Norse Mythology than with Greek. He had always been impressed with the saga and adventure therein, and now he experienced himself a new adventure of a Norse Saga. It seemed like a dream, but it was a joyful reality.

"To-day the heir of a royal and popular house bestowed splendid prizes, presented by a son of the people, at the proposal of Swedish scientific men. In that noble co-operation of the royal house, of the people, and of men of science, the speaker perceived that which was peculiarly and honorably Scandinavian (*Nordisk*). He would openly admit that he had not thought that he would be recollected in the award of the prize, but now that it was adjudged to him, he desired to explain that he

intended to devote it in the spirit of the founder to the disinterested assistance of the further development of science."

So ended the festival, perhaps the most originally humane of modern times. But would we apprise it truly, we must soar in imagination beyond the day far into the future; year after year, the champion of peace encouraged by a splendid tribute, will strive still more unweariedly for that sacred cause; the devoted physician will be enabled to triumph over inveterate diseases that now scourge the human race; the great chemist will find help to make discoveries that will influence our destiny; physicists will solve problems that baffled unaided geniuses; and last but not least, the poet ignoring a vitiated task, will have strength to raise aloft the noble banner of idealism that points ever upward and onward. Chill poverty will no longer 'freeze the genial current of the soul' of the world's greatest benefactors; and men may look back on the tenth day of December Anno Domini 1901, as the dawn of a brighter era, the morning gleam of the century.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A NOBEL-PRIZE ?

OUR readers who might wish to compete for a Nobel prize should address themselves in order to obtain the necessary information :—

1. For the prize for peace to the Secretary of the Nobel-Committee, Christiania, Norway.
- 2 & 3. For the prize for chemistry and physics to the Secretary of the Nobel Committee of the Royal Academy of Science in Stockholm.
4. For the prize for medicine to the Secretary of the Nobel-Committee of *Karolinska Institutet* at Stockholm.
5. For the prize for literature to the Secretary of the Nobel-Committee of the Swedish Academy in the last named capital.



It is required by the regulations, of the Nobel foundation that all candidates should be proposed by the Universities, learned bodies, or parliaments of the country to which they belong. All proposals by such bodies with a view to the competitions of candidates together with the treatises or works of the latter must be forwarded to the Nobel-Committee concerned before February 1st, of the year in which the candidates would contend for a prize.

The award of the prizes for physics, and medicine will not wholly depend on the treatises or works published in the course of the preceding year as the regulations might lead us to suppose. Other circumstances, such as the career and the labours of the candidate will be taken into consideration. No very hard and fast line will be drawn, so as to exclude works or treatises published before the year preceding the award. It is expected, however that they should be very recent something in the nature of the 'last thing.'

**STATUTES OF THE ❀**  
**NOBEL FOUNDATION ❀**

*Given at the Palace in Stockholm, on the 29th  
day of June in the year 1900.*

*(This authentic and official translation in English  
is from 'The Calcutta Review,' 1901.)*



## OBJECTS OF THE FOUNDATION

### 1

The Nobel Foundation is based upon the last Will and Testament of Dr. Alfred Bernhard Nobel, Engineer, which was drawn up on the 27th day of November, 1895. The paragraph of the Will bearing upon this topic is worded thus :

“With the residue of my convertible estate I hereby direct my executors to proceed as follows : They shall convert my said residue of property into money, which they shall then invest in safe securities ; the capital thus secured shall constitute a fund, the interest accruing from which shall be annually awarded in prizes to those persons who shall have contributed most materially to benefit mankind during the year immediately preceding. The said interest shall be divided into five equal

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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amounts, to be apportioned as follows : one share to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention in the domain of Physics ; one share to the person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement ; one share to the person who shall have made the most important discovery in the domain of Physiology or Medicine ; one share to the person who shall have produced in the field of Literature the most distinguished work of an idealistic tendency ; and, finally, one share to the person who shall have most or best promoted the Fraternity of Nations and the Abolishment or Diminution of Standing Armies and the Formation and Increase of Peace-congresses. The prizes for Physics and Chemistry shall be awarded by the Swedish Academy of Science ( Svenska Vetenskapsakademien ) in Stockholm ; the one for Physiology or Medicine by the Caroline Medical Institute ( Karolinska Institutet ) in Stockholm ; the prize for Literature by the Academy in Stockholm ( *i. e.*, Svenska Akademien ) and that for Peace by a Committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian

Storting. I declare it to be my express desire that, in the awarding of prizes, no consideration whatever be paid to the nationality of the candidates, that is to say, that the most deserving be awarded the prize, whether of Scandinavian origin or not."

The instructions of the Will as above set forth shall serve as a criterion for the administration of the Foundation, in conjunction with the elucidations and further stipulations contained in this Code and also in a deed of adjustment of interests amicably entered into with certain of the testator's heirs on the 5th day of June, 1898, wherein subsequent upon the arriving at an agreement with reference to a minor portion of the property left by Dr. Nobel, they do affirm and declare, that : "By these presents we do acknowledge and accept Dr. Nobel's Will, and entirely and under all circumstances relinquish every claim for ourselves and our posterity to the late Dr. Nobel's remaining property, and to all participation in the administration of the same, and also to the possession of any

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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right on our part to urge any criticism upon the elucidations of, or additions to, the said Will, or upon any other prescriptions with regard to the carrying out of the Will or the uses to which the means accruing from the bequest are put, which may either now or at some future time be imposed for observance by the Crown or by those who are thereto entitled ;

Subject, nevertheless, to the following express provisoes :—

- (a) That the Code of Statutes which is to serve in common as a guide for all the corporations appointed to award prizes, and is to determine the manner and the conditions of the distribution of prizes appointed in the said Will, shall be drawn up in consultation with a representative nominated by Robert Nobel's family, and shall be submitted to the consideration of the King ;

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STATUTES OF THE NOBEL FOUNDATION

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(b) That deviations from the following leading principles shall not occur, *viz.* :

That each of the annual prizes founded by the said Will shall be awarded at least once during each ensuing five-year period, the first of the periods to run from and with the year next following that in which the Nobel-Foundation comes into force, and

That every amount so distributed in prizes in each section shall, under no consideration, be less than sixty (60) per cent. of that portion of the annual interest that shall be available for the award, nor shall the amount be apportioned to more than a maximum of three (3) prizes."

2

By the "Academy in Stockholm," as mentioned in the Will is understood the Swedish Academy—Svenska Akademien. The term "Literature," used in the Will, shall be understood to embrace not only works falling under the category of Polite Literature, but also other writings, which may claim to possess literary



value by reason of their form or their mood of exposition.

The proviso in the Will to the effect that for the prize-competition only such works or inventions shall be eligible as have appeared "during the preceding year," is to be so understood, that a work or an invention for which a reward under the terms of the Will is contemplated, shall set forth the most modern results of work being done in that of the departments, as defined in the Will, to which it belongs ; works or inventions of older standing to be taken into consideration only in case their importance have not previously been demonstrated.

3

Every written work, to qualify for a prize, shall have appeared in print.

4

The amount allotted to one prize may be divided equally between two works submitted, should each of such works be deemed to merit a prize.

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## STATUTES OF THE NOBEL FOUNDATION

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In cases where two or more persons shall have executed a work in conjunction, and that work be awarded a prize, such prize shall be presented to them jointly.

The work of any person since deceased cannot be submitted for award ; should, however, the death of the individual in question have occurred subsequent to a recommendation having been made in due course for his work to receive a prize, such prize may be awarded.

It shall fall to the lot of each corporation entitled to adjudicate prizes to determine whether the prize or prizes they have to award might likewise be granted to some institution or society.

### 5

No work shall have a prize awarded to it unless it has been proved by the test of experience or by the examination of experts to possess the pre-eminent excellence that is manifestly signified by the terms of the Will.

If it be deemed that not one of the works under examination attains to the standard of excellence above referred to, the sum allotted

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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for the prize or prizes shall be withheld until the ensuing year. Should it even then be found impossible, on the same grounds, to make any award, the amount in question shall be added to the main fund, unless three-fourths of those engaged in making the award determine that it shall be set aside to form a special fund for that one of the five sections, as defined by the Will, for which the amount was originally intended. The proceeds of any and every such fund may be employed, subject to the approval of the adjudicators, to promote the objects which the testator ultimately had in view in making his bequest, in other ways than by means of prizes.

Every special fund shall be administered in conjunction with the main fund.

### 6

For each of the four sections in which a *Swedish* corporation is charged with adjudicating the prizes, that corporation shall appoint a Committee—their Nobel-Committee—of three or five members, to make suggestions with reference to the award. The preliminary investigation

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STATUTES OF THE NOBEL FOUNDATION

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necessary for the awarding of prizes in the Peace-section shall be conducted by the Committee of the Norwegian Storting, as laid down in the Will.

To be qualified for election on a Nobel-Committee it is not essential either to be a Swedish subject or to be a member of the corporation that has to make the award. On the Norwegian Committee persons of other nationalities than Norwegian may have seats.

Members of a Nobel-Committee may receive reasonable compensation for the labour devolving upon them as such, the amount to be determined by the corporation that appoints them.

In special cases, where it shall be deemed necessary, the adjudicating corporation shall have the right of appointing a specialist to take part in the deliberations and decisions of a Nobel-Committee, in the capacity of a member of the same.

7

It is essential that every candidate for a prize under the terms of the Will be proposed

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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as such in writing by some duly qualified person. A direct application for a prize will not be taken into consideration.

The qualification entitling a person to propose another for the receipt of a prize consists in being a representative, whether Swedish or otherwise, of the domain of Science, Literature, etc., in question, in accordance with the detailed stipulations obtainable from the corporations charged with adjudicating the prizes.

At each annual adjudication those proposals shall be considered that have been handed in during twelve months preceding the 1st day of February.

### 8

The grounds upon which the proposal of any candidate's name is made must be stated in writing and handed in along with such papers and other documents as may be there referred to.

Should the proposal be written in a language other than those of the Scandinavian group, or than English, French, German or Latin, or should the adjudicators, in order to arrive

at a decision upon the merits of a work proposed, be under the necessity of obtaining information as to the contents chiefly from a work written in a language, for the understanding of which there is no expedient save such as involves a great expenditure of trouble or money, it shall not be obligatory for the adjudicators to pay further consideration to the proposal.

9

On Founder's Day, the 10th of December, the anniversary of the death of the testator, the adjudicators shall make known the results of their award and shall hand over to the winners of prizes a cheque for the amount of the same, together with a diploma and a medal in gold bearing the testator's effigy and a suitable legend.

It shall be incumbent on a prize-winner, wherever feasible, to give a lecture on the subject treated of in the work to which the prize has been awarded ; such lecture to take place within six months of the Founder's Day at which the prize was won, and to be given at

Stockholm or, in the case of the peace prize, at Christiania.

10

Against the decision of the adjudicators in making their award no protest can be lodged. If differences of opinion have occurred they shall not appear in the minutes of the proceedings, nor be in any other way made public.

11

As an assistance in the investigations necessary for making their award, and for the promotion in other ways of the aims of the Foundation, the adjudicators shall possess powers to establish scientific institutions and other organizations.

The institutions, etc., so established and belonging to the Foundation, shall be known under the name of Nobel-Institutes.

12

Each of the Nobel-Institutes shall be under the control of that adjudicating corporation that has established it.

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## STATUTES OF THE NOBEL FOUNDATION

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As regards its external management and its finances a Nobel-Institute shall have an independent status. Its property is not, however, on that account available for defraying the expenses of any establishments belonging to an adjudicating or any other corporation. Nor is it permissible for any scholar who is in receipt of a fixed salary as an official of a Swedish Nobel-Institute to occupy a similar position at any other institution at the same time, unless the King be pleased to permit it in a special case.

So far as the adjudicators of prizes deem it to be feasible, the Nobel-Institutes shall be established on one common site and shall be organised uniformly.

The adjudicating corporations are at liberty to appoint foreigners, either men or women, to posts at the Nobel-Institutes.

### 13

From that portion of the income derived from the main fund that it falls to the lot of each of the five sections annually to distribute, one-fourth of the amount shall be



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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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deducted before the distribution is made. The immediate expenses connected with the award having been discharged, the remainder of the amount deducted as above directed shall be employed to meet the expenses of the section in maintaining its Nobel-Institute. The money which is not absorbed in thus defraying the current expenditure of the year, shall form a reserve fund for the future needs of the Institute.

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## THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOUNDATION

### 14

THE Nobel Foundation shall be represented by a Board of Control, located in Stockholm. The Board shall consist of five members, one of whom, the President shall be appointed by the King, and the others by the delegates of the adjudicating corporations. The Board shall elect from their own members a Managing Director.

For the member of the Board whom the King appoints one substitute shall be chosen, and for the other members two substitutes.

Those members of the Board who are elected by the delegates of the adjudicators, and also their substitutes, shall be appointed to hold office for two years, commencing from the 1st day of May.

The Board shall administer the funds of the Foundation as well as the other property, real and otherwise belonging to it, in so far as such is common to all the sections.

It shall be a function of the Board to hand over to the winner of prizes in accordance with the rules of the Foundation, the prizes so won, and besides, to attend to the payment of the duly authorized expenses connected with the prize-distribution, the Nobel-Institutes and similar objects. It shall further be incumbent on the Board to be of assistance, in matters that are not of a scientific character, to all those who have to do with the Foundation, where help be required.

The Board shall be empowered to engage the services of a lawyer to summon or prosecute a person or to defend a case on its behalf if need arise, and, in general, to act as the legal representative of the Foundation. The Board shall be entitled to engage the assistants who may be necessary for the proper discharge of

its duties, and also to fix the terms, both as regards salary and pension, on which such assistants shall be remunerated.

16

The adjudicating corporations shall appoint fifteen delegates, for two civil years at a time ; of these delegates the Academy of Science shall choose six and each of the other bodies three. To provide against inconvenience from the disability of a delegate to serve at any time, the Academy of Science shall appoint four substitutes, and each of the other bodies two.

The delegates shall elect one of their number to act as Chairman. That election shall be held at a meeting to which the oldest of the delegates chosen by the Academy of Science shall summon his fellow-delegates.

A minimum of nine delegates shall constitute a quorum. If any of the adjudicating corporations neglect to choose delegates, that shall not prevent the other delegates from arriving at a decision on the business before them.

Should a delegate reside at any place other than that where the meeting of delegates takes place, he shall be entitled to receive reasonable compensation for the expense to which he shall have been put in attending the meeting, such compensation to be paid from the general funds of the Foundation.

17

The administration and accounts of the Board shall be controlled once every civil year by five auditors, of whom each of the adjudicating corporations shall elect one and the King appoint the fifth ; this last shall act as Chairman at their sittings.

Before the expiration of February every year a report concerning the administration of the Board shall be handed in to the Chairman of the auditing committee, which in its turn shall bring in its report before the first day of April to the delegates of the adjudicating corporations.

In the Auditors' Report, which must be published in the public newspapers, there shall appear a summary of the objects to which the proceeds of the several funds have been applied.

If any of the adjudicating corporations neglects to elect an auditor, or if any auditor fails to appear after having been summoned to a sitting of the Auditing Committee, the other auditors shall not be thereby prevented from pursuing their task of auditing.

18

The auditors shall at all times have access to all the books, accounts and other documents of the Foundation ; nor shall any information they may demand concerning the management be withheld by the Board. All the deeds and securities belonging to the Foundation shall be examined and verified at least once a year by the auditors.

The Minister of Public Education and Worship, either in person or by appointed deputy, shall also have the right of access to all the documents belonging to the foundation.

19

On the basis of the Auditors' Report the delegates of the adjudicators shall determine whether the Board shall be held absolved

from their responsibility or not, and shall take those measures against the Board or any member of it for which call may arise. If no case be brought up within a year and a day of the date when the report of the Board was handed in to the auditors, the exoneration of the Board shall be held to have been granted.

20

The King shall determine the salary of the Managing Director, and also the amount of remuneration that shall be given to the other members of the Board and to the auditors.

Further instructions as to the management of the Foundation not contained in this Code shall be issued by the King in special bye-laws.

21

One-tenth part of the annual income derived from the main fund shall be added to the capital. To the same fund shall be also added the interest accruing from the sums set aside for prizes, while they remain undistributed or have not been carried over to the main or other (special) fund, as directed in 5.

ALTERATIONS IN THE CODE

A proposition to modify these statutes may be made by any of the adjudicating corporations, by their delegates, or by the Board. Upon any such proposition being brought forward by the adjudicators or by the Board, the delegates shall be required to express an opinion relative to it.

The adjudicators and the Board shall have to come to a decision on any proposal made, the Academy of Science having two votes and the other corporations one each. If there are not at least four votes in favour of a proposition, or if that corporation whose rights and authority the change proposed affects has not given its assent, the proposition shall be regarded as rejected. In the contrary case the proposition shall be submitted by the Board to the King for his consideration.

The omission on the part of any of those who are notified in due course of a proposed change, to send in any communication, within four months of the receipt of the said notification, shall not prevent a decision being arrived at.



TEMPORARY REGULATIONS

1. Directly the Code of Statutes of the Foundation shall have been ratified by the King, the adjudicators shall appoint the prescribed number of delegates to act until the close of the year 1901 ; they shall be summoned to meet together in Stockholm at the earliest date possible, for the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Control of the Foundation.

In determining the period of service of those members of the Board who are first appointed, the following points are to be observed : firstly, that to the time of service laid down by the statutes, which commences on 1st May, 1901, the time between the date of the election and the day named must be added, and secondly, that two members of the Board shall be chosen by lot to go off again one year afterwards (on May 1).

2. The Board of Control of the Foundation shall assume the management of the property of the Foundation at the commencement of the year 1901 ; subject to the proviso, however, that the testator's executors shall be at liberty to continue, during the progress of the year, to take those

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STATUTES OF THE NOBEL FOUNDATION

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measures which may still be necessary for the completion of the winding up of the estate, so far as they find needful.

3. The first distribution of prizes shall take place, if feasible, in 1901, and that in all five sections.

4. From the property possessed by the Foundation there shall be deducted :—

(a) A sum of 300,000 kronor (about £16,556) for each of the five sections, 1,500,000 kronor in all, to be used, along with the interest accruing therefrom after the first of January 1900, as need arises, for defraying the running expenses of organising the Nobel-Institutes, and

(b) the sum which the Board, after consultation with the delegates, may deem necessary for procuring a building of its own, to embrace offices for the transaction of business and a large hall for Founder's-day celebrations. The adjudicators shall be empowered to set aside the 300,000 kronor and interest

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NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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thereon, mentioned above, or any portion of the same, on behalf of the special funds of the different sections.

To all which Each and Every One, whom it may concern, hath to pay dutiful and obedient heed. To the further certainty whereof WE have hereby attached OUR own signature and royal seal.

At the Palace in Stockholm, on this the 29th day of June, 1900.

OSCAR.

(L. S.)

*Nils Claeson.*

## SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE SECTION OF LITERATURE

### THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

The right to nominate a candidate for the prize-competition shall belong to: Members of the Swedish Academy and of the Academies in France and Spain, which are similar to it in constitution and purpose; members also of the humanistic classes of other academies and of those humanistic institutions and societies that are on the same footing as academies; and teachers of aesthetics, literature and history at University Colleges.

The above regulation shall be publicly announced at least once every five years in some official or widely circulated journal in each of the three Scandinavian countries and in the chief countries of the civilised world.

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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### THE NOBEL LITERARY INSTITUTE

The Academy shall appoint at its Nobel-Institute, which shall embrace a large library chiefly of works in modern literature, not only a head-librarian and one or more sub-librarians, but also, as far as needed, other officers and assistants of literary training, either with temporary or permanent posts, to discharge the work of preparing questions arising out of the prize-competition prior to their treatment by the Academy, to draw up reports concerning literary works of recent publication in foreign countries and to translate from foreign languages when such work is required.

The Nobel-Institute of the Swedish Academy shall be under the superintendence of an Inspector appointed by the Crown, and under the immediate management of a member of the Academy, to be chosen by that body.

### THE SPECIAL FUND FOR LITERATURE

The Academy shall be empowered to employ the proceeds of the special fund in furthering, in such directions as the testator ultimately had in

view in making his bequest, any work in the field of literature, whether carried on in Sweden or abroad, that may be considered to possess importance more especially in those departments of culture which it is the function of the Academy to tend and foster.

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Special regulations for other sections are also given in the Statutes of the Nobel Foundation, but as we are concerned only with the literary section, we desist from quoting them here.

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## THE ORIGIN OF THE SWEDISH ACADEMY

*The Swedish Academy*—(Svenska Akademien) in Stockholm was founded by King Gustavus III on the 20th of March, 1786, when it received the statutes of constitution still in force, devotes itself to the arts of elocution and poetry, its mission being to labour in the interests of the preservation of purity, force and elevation of diction in the Swedish language both in scientific works and, more especially, in those products of

pure literature that are embraced under the terms poetry and elocution in all their scope, not excluding those works that have the inculcation of religion for their purpose. It is part of the task of the Academy to prepare for publication a dictionary of the Swedish language and likewise a grammar, besides issuing papers and treatises calculated to establish and cultivate good taste. The Academy awards annual prizes to the winners of competitions in elocution and poetry. The membership of the Academy is fixed at 18, all being Swedes; the King is its patron. The officials consist of a President, a Chancellor, and a Permanent Secretary, all chosen from among the members.

**CHRONOLOGICAL LIST ❖**  
**OF NOBEL LAUREATES ❖**





## CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF NOBEL LAUREATES

- 1901—Sully-Prudhomme, Rene Francois  
Armand.
- 1902—Mommsen, Theodor.
- 1903—Bjornson, Bjornstjerne.
- 1904—Mistral, Frederic and  
Echegaray, Jose.
- 1905—Sienkiewicz, Henryk.
- 1906—Carducci, Giosue.
- 1907—Kipling, Rudyard.
- 1908—Eucken, Rudolf.
- 1909—Lagerlof, Selma.
- 1910—Heyse, Paul.
- 1911—Maeterlinck, Maurice.
- 1912—Hauptmann, Gerhart.
- 1913—Tagore, Rabindranath.

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NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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- 1914—No Award.
- 1915—Rolland, Romain.
- 1916—von Heidenstam, Verner.
- 1917—Gjellerup, Karl and  
Pontoppidan, Henrik.
- 1918—No award.
- 1919—Spitteler, Carl.
- 1920—Hamsun, Knut.
- 1921—France, Anatole.
- 1922—Benavente, Jacinto.
- 1923—Yeats, William Butler.
- 1924—Reymont, Wladyslaw St.
- 1925—Shaw, George Bernhard.
- 1926—Deledda, Grazia.
- 1927—Bergson, Henri.
- 1928—Undset, Sigrid.
- 1929—Mann, Thomas.
- 1930—Lewis, Sinclair.
- 1931—Karlfeldt, Erik Axel.
- 1932—Galsworthy, John.
- 1933—Bunin, Ivan.

LIST OF NOBEL LAUREATES

1934—PIRANDELLO, LUIGI

1935—NO AWARD

1936—O'NEILL EUGENE



**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE  
NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS  
IN LITERATURE**





### SULLY-PRUDHOMME (1839—1907).

Sully-Prudhomme, Rene Francois Armand Prudhomme, French poet, was born on March 16, 1839 in Paris. He was the only son of his parents. He lost his father when quite a child. He therefore, received the care and attention of his mother in full measure.

For his education he was admitted into the Lycee Bonaparte, where in due course, he received his degree as Bachelier e's Sciences. Owing to an attack of Opthalmia he had to put a stop to his academic career. He soon commenced to detest this sort of *idle* life, he, therefore, secured a job in the Schneider Factory at Creuzot. Due to his highly poetic temperament such a situation could never suit him. He was again out of employment. He had already commenced to write poetry and attracted the attention of man like Gaston Paris, who was then regarded throughout France as the



genius of Philology. Sully-Prudhomme never failed to show Gaston Paris any of his poems ere he sent it to the press for publication.

In 1865 Sully-Prudhomme published his first book of poems, "Stances et Poemes". Gaston Paris personally presented a copy of "Stances et Poemes" to Sainte-Beuve, who reviewed it so favourably that Sully-Prudhomme was atonce pushed in the front-rank of the modern French poets. Before this event he was regarded as a Parnassian. "The Parnassians," says Wright,<sup>1</sup> "were a group of miscellaneous poets who reacted against the romantic effusiveness. They had no common programme, but represented a tendency toward objectivity and equilibrium in art as opposed to subjective extremes."

Sully-Prudhomme was a pessimist and without pose. This stoical pessimism he imbibed from such masters as Marcus Aurelius, Lucretius, Pascal, and Alfred de Vigny. Another fact is that in his youth he had undergone an unhappy love experience which made him sad and sullen

1. C. H. Conrad Wright: A History of French Literature.

for the rest of his life. Gardiner says that Sully-Prudhomme could never bear to have a son, because every man suffers so deeply.

His poems are though philosophical in subject, are not yet devoid of the cult of plastic beauty and tenderness. In 1870 a series of domestic bereavements took all the zest out of his life. He retired from the public life to Chate-nay where he lived almost the life of a recluse. But his pen never had any rest. His *Vaines Tendernesses* appeared in 1875 and *La Justice* appeared in 1878 followed by *Le Bonheur* in 1888. He also published two volumes of prose criticism.

On December 10, 1901 he was awarded the first Nobel Prize for Literature "in recognition of his exceptional merit as a writer, as shown even in his later years; and especially of his poetry, which reveals a rare genius for the expression of lofty idealism and deep feeling in a perfect form."

Sully-Prudhomme devoted more than half of the prize to the foundation of a prize for poetry.

Since he established himself at Chate-nay, he was constantly in ill-health. An attack of paralysis suddenly carried him off on 6th of September, 1907.

His chief writings are :—

*Stances et Poemes*, 1865.

*Solitudes*, 1869.

*Faintes Tendernesses*, 1875.

*La Justice*, 1878.

*Le Bonheur*, 1888.

✓ *Le Testament Poetique*, 1901, (4th edition).

*La Vraie Religion Selon Pascal*, 1905.

His selected poems are to be found in :

*Anthology of French Poetry*, edited by  
H. Carrington, London.

*The Modern Book of French Verse*,  
edited by Albert Boni, New York.

## THEODOR MOMMSEN (1817—1903.)

Theodor Mommsen, German jurist and historian was born on November 30, 1817 at Garding, in Schleswig. After receiving some elementary education from his father, he joined the University of Kiel. He was all along a keen student of Roman Law and Antiquities. When he was only twenty-six years of age, an opportunity presented itself to him for investigating the Roman inscriptions. In 1843 the Danish Government gave him a grant to go to Italy for this special purpose.

From 1844—47 Mommsen travelled far and wide in France and Italy. In 1848 he returned to Germany and wrote a series of articles for the "Schleswig Holstein." Soon after he was made the editor of this journal. The same year he was made a Professor of Law at Leipzig. Having badly entangled himself, in political affairs, he lost this appointment in no time.

During 1852—58 we find him again appointed as a Professor of Law in three different places, namely, Zurich, Breslan and Berlin.

In 1875 we find him posted at Leipzig, but this time as a Professor of Jurisprudence. In 1882 in an election speech he attacked Bismarck so violently that he was tried at Berlin for defamation. He was, however, acquitted after some difficulty. After this incident he stopped from taking any part in the politics of his own country.

Mommsen, as we have seen, was not a politician, whenever he dabbled in it, he brought upon himself serious troubles. But as a scholar of his time, he was foremost for more than half a century. He belonged to the same school to which Thucydides, Tacitus, and Gibbon belong. Under his guidance there arose a new generation of able historical scholars, who won world-wide reputation for German historical research. In 1880 when his valuable Library at Charlottenberg was destroyed by fire, a number of his English admirers lost no time in presenting him

with a selection of classical and historical books to compensate him for some portion of his loss.

A private trait of his character is revealed in the following yarn quoted by A. T. Camden Pratt in his admirable book entitled "People of the Period :"—

" Dr. Mommsen was one of the most absent minded of men. In a sketch of some Berlin Professors it is told how once during the half-hour's drive from Berlin to Charlottenberg the tramcar in which he rode went badly off the time. The rest of the passengers shifted, the horses were removed, the stranded vehicle was left until help could be found. But Mommsen remained reading his book. An hour later the sound of levers and jacks and the plunging of horses' hoofs aroused him from his reveries. Rising from his seat, he went to the door and with the most complete unconcern imaginable remarked " I suppose we have come to a stand still !."

Whatever may be the value of his noble " Corpus Inscriptionum" his claim to a distinguished title rests upon the " History of Rome."

Of this history Mommsen says: "With self-denial this book has been written and with self-denial let it be read."

Mommsen was fortunate to find the merit of his works well recognised even during his life time. In 1878 the King of Italy conferred on him the Grand Cross of the Order of SS. Maurice and Lazarus. In November 1887 on the occasion of his 70th birthday, a congratulatory address signed by 62 dons was presented to him by the members of the University of Oxford. In 1902 just a year before his death he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature "in special recognition of his monumental Roman History."

His chief writings are :—

*Romanorum*, 1843.

✓ *History of Rome*. Trans. by W. P. Dickson, 4 Vols. (Everyman's Library).

*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, 1863.

*Digesta recognovit*, 1890.

*The Provinces of the Roman Empire*. Trans. by Dr. W. P. Dickson. (Macmillan).

## BJORNSTJERNE BJORNSON (1832—1910).

Bjornstjerne Bjornson, the Norwegian novelist and dramatist was born on December 8, 1832 at Kvikne (Oesterdal). At the age of seventeen he entered the University at Christiania where he came in contact with Ibsen. After completing his course, he extensively travelled through Sweden and Denmark. He stayed at Copenhagen for about two years to study the works of Danish writers. During this period he contributed numerous stories and articles to *Folkebad*, an illustrated journal of his country.

In 1857 he published his first peasant novel, *Synnove Solbakken* and at once rose to fame. It was followed by *Arne* in 1858. His other two famous peasant novels, *A Happy Boy* and *The Fisher Maiden* appeared later and were well received in his own country as well as in Germany. 1865 he was appointed as the manager



of the Oslo-Theatre, Christiania and brought out, *The Newly Married*, a comedy and *Mary Stuart in Scotland*, a romantic tragedy.

In 1880 he left Norway for America to study life and politics of that country. He returned to Norway in May, 1881 and was received with great enthusiasm by his countrymen. On the 17th of the same month, Norway's natal day, he delivered the oration at the dedication of the Wergeland Monument to a gathering of more than ten thousand people. His addresses were chiefly constitutional struggle of Norway. Before delivering any lecture, Bjornson was wont to greet his hearers with one of his most popular songs entitled *Olaf Trygvason*. As soon as the dedication ceremony of the Wergeland Monument was over, Bjornson 'raised what was known as the *Flag Question*—that is, that Norway should have a clear flag, a flag without symbol of the union upon it.' His idea was to get Norway separated from Sweden as a separate kingdom. Such attitude of his brought upon him a charge of high treason and he was forced to take refuge in Germany.

In 1882 he returned to Norway and was again seen busy with his literary works. Rasmus B. Anderson, who was one of the trusted friends of Bjornson and translator of many of his books in English, states that Norway's most eminent composers have written music for many of Bjornson's poems and made them favourite songs, not only with the cultivated classes, but also with the common people.

Bjornson though wrote numerous novels and dramas, his chief claim to fame is for the excellence of his poems. In 1862 when his *Sigurd the Bastard* made its appearance, he was at once placed in the front rank of the younger poets of Europe.

It should be remembered that whatever he wrote, novels, plays or poems, he never failed to portray the life that he witnessed around him in his own country.

Bjornson was one of the original members of the Nobel-Committee. In 1903 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature "in recognition of a noble devotion to poetic creation over a long

period of years, distinguished by a rare purity of spirit and originality of conception."

In 1905 just five years before his death he was satisfied to see Norway separated from Sweden as a separate kingdom.

He died on April 26, 1910.

His chief writings are : —

*Novels.* 13 Vols. Edited by Edmund Gosse.

*Plays.* 2 Vols. Trans. by R. Farquharson Sharp (Everyman's Library) :—

Vol. I. *The Newly Married Couple, Leonards, A Gannet*.

Vol. II. *The Editor, the Bankrupt, and the King.*

*Poems and songs.* Trans. by A. H. Palmer (Allen and U.)

*Arnljot Gelline.* Trans. by W. M. Payne (Allen and U.)

## FREDERIC MISTRAL (1830—1914).

Frederic Mistral, the Provencial poet was born on September 8, 1830 at Maillane near Marseilles. His father was a prosperous farmer who wanted his son, Mistral to be a lawyer.

When still quite a boy, Mistral showed his fondness for poetry by reading poems of Homer and Virgil many times over. According to the wishes of his father, he studied law but never held any brief.

He started his literary career by translating a portion of Virgil's works. He was always active for the revival of Provencial as a literary language. In 1854 he along with Roumanille, Aubanel, and others, founded Felibrige or society for carrying out this purpose. Five years later he earned a great reputation for himself and his

society by his masterpiece, *Mireio*. Lamartine, hailed him as a new Homer and *Mireio* is certainly one of the few modern poems which can be called on epic. "The tale itself was nothing—the old story of a rich girl and her poor lover, kept apart by the girl's parents. Mireille, in despair, wanders along a tract of country to the Church of the Trois-Maries, in the hope that the latter may aid her. But the effort was too great: she sinks exhausted, and dies in the presence of her stricken parents and her frenzied lover. Into this simple web Mistral has woven description of provencial life, scenery, character, customs, and legends that raise the poem to the dignity of a rustic epic that is unique in literature.' (Encyclopaedia Britannica).

*Mercio* gained the poet's prize of the French Academy, and secured for Mistral, the Cross of the Legion of Honor. Since then it has been translated into all the languages of Europe. *Calendau* and *Nerto*, two long narrative poems followed *Mireio*.

In 1876 Mistral married a beautiful young woman named Mlle. Marrie Reviere of Dijon.

The same year appeared his *Les Isles d'Or*, a collection of shorter poems. His two shorter pieces, *Coupe* and the *Princesse* aroused violent controversy, he was accused of trying to sow seeds of dissention between the North and South of France, although he was free from such base designs. One of the great labours of his life is his *Provencial Dictionary*. It was published in 1886 in two volumes. He also wrote an autobiography, *Mes Origines* which has been admirably translated by Constance Elisabeth Maud as *Memoirs of Mistral* (Edward Arnold).

In 1904 he shared the Nobel Prize for literature with Jose Echegaray. He was awarded the prize "in recognition of the fresh originality and true artistic genius of his poetry, which faithfully mirrors the native spirit of his people, and of his important work as a Provence philologist."

When the French Academy offered Mistral one of its coveted seats, he refused it, but he readily accepted the Nobel Prize in order that the money may go to the purchasing of a palace at Arles for housing the museum of Felibrige.

Mistral died at Maillane on March 25, 1924.

His chief writings are :—

*Mireio*. Trans. by Harriet Waters Preston.  
London. Also trans. by C. H. Grant.

*Mireille*. Trans. by H. Crichton, London.

*Memoirs of Mistral*. Trans. by Constance  
Elisabeth Maud. (Edward Arnold).

## JOSE ECHEGARAY (1832—1916).

Jose Echegaray (pronounced as Eiza-guirre), the Spanish mathematician and dramatist was born at Madrid in 1832. After a brilliant career at college, he was appointed professor of pure and applied mathematics at the Engineering School. He was also a political economist and a revolutionary orator. During the short regime of the republic, he acted as a minister of education and of finance. Upon the restoration of the Bourbon Dynasty he had to retire from politics. He is, however, best known as a dramatist. He first attempted the drama so late as 1874 under the pseudonym of Jorge Hayaseca. His first play *El Libro talonario* appeared in 1874 and was at once successful. From 1874 onwards he wrote some fifty plays with the result that he succeeded and failed with numerous pieces.

His plays snared only the passing fashions of the moment, they therefore, contain nothing of permanent value.



Being himself a very good mathematician, he displayed accuracy and precision even in his writings. His plays are well conceived and well constructed. In the arrangement of dramatic scene and in theatrical technique he was always perfect.

One thing is certain that Echegaray was a middle-class writer and as such, he was largely appreciated by the middle-class audience for over thirty years.

In 1904 he shared the Nobel Prize for literature with Frederic Mistral. He was awarded the prize "in recognition of the brilliant and extensive literary work in which he has revived the great traditions of the Spanish drama on original and independent lines."

Principal Works.—"La Esposa del Vendagor" (1874), "La Ultima Notbe" (1875), "O Locura o Santidad," "En el Pilar y en la *Cruz*" (1879), "En el Seno de la Muerte" (1880), "Mar sin Orillas" (1880), "El gran Galeoto" (1881), "Conflicto entre dos deberes" (1882), "Dos Fanatismos" (1887).

## HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ (1846—1916).

Henryk Sienkiewicz (pronounced as *Syen-kye Vich*), the Polish novelist was born at Wola Okrzejska, in Russian Poland in 1846. He was an earnest student of philosophy and studied the same studiously and thoroughly at Warsaw University.

He visited America in 1876 and contributed his impressions of America and American life to *Gazeta Polska*. He had already commenced to write novels dealing with lives and ideals of his native folk. His first novel entitled *A Prophet in his own Country*, appeared in 1872.

Sienkiewicz is unusually well known for foreign authors, as he is to English readers because of *Quo Vadis*, a study of Roman society under Nero. *Quo Vadis* is now available in all the principal languages of the world.

Dramatised and film versions of it have also been produced in many countries.

His trilogy of historical romances of Poland comprises *With Fire and Sword* (1890), *The Deluge* (1891), *Pan Michael* (1893) and claims to possess greater literary merit.

In 1905 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature "because of his splendid merits as an author of historical novels."

Sienkiewicz died in Switzerland in 1916. As he lived much in Cracow and liked it immensely, his body was transferred to this place in 1924.

His chief writings are :

*With Fire and Sword.*

*The Deluge.*

*Pan Michael.*

*Quo Vadis.*

*In Desert and Wilderness.*

*On the Field of Glory.*

*On the Bright Shore.*

## GIOSUE CARDUCCI (1836—1907).

Giosue Carducci, Italian poet was born on July 27, 1836 at Val-di-Castello, Tuscany. He was educated at the University of Pisa. He commenced his life as a teacher. Later he was appointed as a Professor in the History of Literature, at the University of Bologna, where he spent more than forty years of his life.

His father was a physician who had been imprisoned for his share in the revolution of 1831 before Carducci was born. When Carducci came of age, he too entertained the same political views as that of his father.

Carducci was very happy when he married the daughter of a friend. He had four children. His happiness was marred when he lost his three years old boy, Dante to whom he was fondly attached.

Carducci at once rose to fame as a poet when his *Hymn to Satan* (*Inno a Satana*) appeared in 1863. Prior to this, in 1857, he collected for the first time all his poems and published them under the title *Rime*. *Levia Gravia* published in 1868 was a re-issue of the *Rime*.

In 1906 Carducci was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature "in consideration not only of his wide learning and critical research, but, in the first place, as homage to the plastic energy, the freshness of style, and the lyric strength that distinguish his poetry."

His chief writings are :

*Poems*. Trans. by Maud Holland.

*Selections from Carducci*, prose and poetry.

Edited by A Marinoni.

*The Rime Nuovo*. Trans. by Lawra Fullerton Gilbert.



## BRITISH RECIPIENTS



RUDYARD KIPLING 1907



JOHN GLASWORTHY 1932

## RUDYARD KIPLING (1865

Rudyard Kipling, British author and poet was born on December 30, 1865 in Bombay. His father, John Lockwood Kipling, an artist, was at that time (1837-1911) Head of the Lahore School of Industrial Art. How Rudyard Kipling got his first name, is related by A. T. Camden Pratt thus:—"Rudyard Lake, which beat the record in the winter of 1896, of all English waters, by covering itself with two feet of solid ice, had previously been immortalised in a very different fashion. It would be irreverent, and to some extent incorrect, to say that this mere is Rudyard Kipling's god-father, but to it he certainly owes his name. Nearly thirty years ago (Pratt says in 1897) John Lockwood Kipling was strolling along the picturesque shore in the charming companionship of Miss Alice Macdonald, when he plucked up courage to make



there and then an offer of his hand and heart. To commemorate that happy summer evening's walk the son of their subsequent marriage was named Rudyard, and he certainly has given the *genus loci* no cause for shame."

Rudyard Kipling was educated at the United Services' College, Westward Ho, North Devon, which is now reputed to be the scene of his story, *Stalky and Co.* In 1882 at the age of seventeen, Kipling was sub-editor of the Lahore *Civil and Military Gazette*. In 1889 he left India and travelled through China, Japan and America, finally arrived England 'to find himself already famous.' In 1886 for the first time he entered into the arena of poets with his *Departmental Ditties*. It was immediately followed by *Plain Tales from the Hills* (1887). The following six slim volumes: *The Story of the Gadsbys*, *In Black and White*, *Soldiers Three*, *The Phantom 'Rickshaw*, *Under the Deodars*, and *Wee Willie Winkee*, in gray paper covers, at a rupee apiece were published by A. H. Wheeler & Co., of Allahabad. In 1922 at the Kern Library sale, a first edition copy of *Under*

*the Deodars* fetched 5,000 dollars. The same year, at Sotheby's a first edition copy of *Departmental Ditties* fetched £76. It is the copy which Kipling presented to the United Services' College.

But this author's genius was not fully recognized till he published *The Jungle Book* (1894) and *The Second Jungle Book* (1895). Many critics regard them as his most flawless works.

In 1892 Kipling married Miss Caroline Starr, a sister of Wolcott Balestier, with whom he collaborated in writing the novel, *The Naulakha*.

To write a short sketch of the life of such a versatile and prodigious writer as Kipling, is not an easy task. Whatever is wanting in this sketch, however, will be found in the following lines from the pen of his father, Lockwood Kipling :—"I went out to Bombay in 1867," he says, "and in Bombay my son Rudyard was born. When he was still quite a young boy, I sent him home to England to be educated at the United Services' College at Westward Ho, in Devonshire, a school which was under the

direction of old Indian officers almost entirely, and in which most of the pupils were the sons of Indian officers, and afterwards went out themselves on service in India. There was an Indian military atmosphere about the whole place, which must have coloured his ideas, and the literary and the artistic instincts which were in his blood naturally took shape in that direction. When he was quite a lad he contributed to the school magazine several sets of verses, which he collected at home, and had printed for ourselves. People often ask how he got his knowledge of art and artists. Well, Mr. Burne-Jones married one of his mother's sisters; and Mr. Poynter, the R. A., married another. He used to spend a good part of his school holidays with them, and always had a leaning towards art himself. In fact, he draws fairly well now, and might have been very good if he had liked, but he would never take the pains. He was thrown much into the society of literary people in London too, and he and his sister were great friends of Miss Mulock, the authoress of 'John Halifax Gentleman'. He also knew Mr. George

Hooper, a well-known London journalist and author, very intimately. I can't say exactly where he got the intense realism in art with which he endows Dick in 'The Light that Failed'. It is the sort of thing of course, that Caton Woodville and Melton Prior have been trying to get hold of—at least, they are working in that direction. I confess that I do not like 'The Light that Failed' myself as much as some of his shorter sketches, which, I think, are stronger on the whole. Of course, you know that he began as a journalist. When he was only seventeen years old; I suggested to the conductors of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, who are old friends of mine at Lahore, that they should take him on, and he came out to join that paper. Lahore is the scene of his sketch of the *City of Dreadful Nights*, which I look upon as one of the best things he has done. It is absolutely photographic, on its distinctness."<sup>1</sup>

In his dedicatory lines to his *Seven Seas*, Kipling is proud of claiming Bombay as his mother:

1 A. T. Camden Pratt: *People of the Period*.

Mother of cities to me,  
For I was born in her gate  
Between the palms and the sea  
Where the world-end steamers wait.

There is hardly any educated man or woman in India who does not remember his oft-quoted couplet :

Oh, East is East and West is West and  
never the twain shall meet.

Mr. Seshadri rightly observes that injustice has been done to him of representing him as a prophet of disunion, anxious to emphasise the differences of the two races which have met in India. His oft-quoted couplet "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet" occurs, as unfortunately not generally known, in a passage intended to emphasise the common nature of humanity, for the next lines run :

But there is neither East nor West,  
Border nor breed, not birth,  
When two strong men, stand face to face,  
though they come from the ends of  
the earth<sup>1</sup>.

1 Barrack-room Ballads.

Some complaint is also made against Kipling for the excessive use of cockney soldier speech in his writings. In this connection, A. C. Ward says : " There is however, a reasonable complaint to be made against Kipling. He was a cultured Anglo-Indian (born at Bombay in 1865), and although he travelled widely and studied the British soldier at close quarters, 'cockney' was virtually a foreign tongue to him. In his use of this dialect, therefore, he was performing a literary trick, not employing a natural medium of expression : the self-conscious man of letters can be detected behind the letter of illiterate sounds. A born Cockney knows that a fellow " foreigner " is speaking and suspects That he is trying, condescendingly, to talk down to his level " <sup>1</sup>.

Kipling, though he is essentially a poet of action and movement in their more energetic action, he is not entirely bereft of the more delicate touches of lyric song. Some of his pieces like, " If ", " Mother O'Mine, " " The Recessional " (Hymn) will live for all time, for their sweetness and haunting cadence.

1 A. C. Ward : Twentieth Century Literature.

A writer in *The Star* says : “ I wonder how many people know what Mr. Rudyard Kipling received in payment for his “ Reccessional ” ? He received nothing. It was written for the Diamond Jubilee issue of a London daily newspaper, but Kipling refused the £100 cheque offered him for it. He made a present of it to the Empire. It is non-copyright. Any one may use or print it.”

Kipling is a vastly travelled man. We are reminded of an incident which took place in 1926 at Rio while Kipling was staying as the guest of the Brazil Government. One day he received rather an embarrassing gift from a Brazillian admirer, a live armadillo. The author kept his ‘pet’ for one day in the hotel and then returned it to the sender with a letter explaining that life in a hotel was “ too terrible a fate for an armadillo.”

In 1907 Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature “ in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, and also the manly strength in the art of perception and delineation that characterize the writings of this world-renowned author.”

His chief writings are :

*Departmental Ditties*, 1886.

*Plain Tales from the Hills*, 1887.

*Soldiers Three*.

*The Light that Failed*.

*Life's Handicap*, 1891.

*Ballads and Barrack-room Ballads*, 1892.

*Many Inventions*, 1893.

*The Jungle Book*, 1894.

*The Second Jungle Book*, 1895.

*The Naulakha*.

*Stalky and Co.*, 1899.

*From Sea to Sea*, 1899.

*Kim*, 1901. \*

*Just so Stories*, 1902.

*The Five Nations (Poems)*, 1903.

*Land and Sea Tales for Boys and Girls*,  
1923.

*Debits and Credits*, 1926.

*A Book of Words* (Speeches and Addresses), 1928.

Macmillan Co., are the publishers of the above mentioned works.

*Rudyard Kipling's Verse 1835—1932.*

(Hodder and Stoughton).



## RUDOLF EUCKEN (1846—1926).

Rudolf Eucken, German philosopher was born on January 5, 1846 at Aurich, in East Frisia. When eighteen years of age, he studied at the University of Gottingen under Lotze. From Gottingen he took Doctor's Degree. In 1874 he succeeded the late Kuno Fischer as Professor of Philosophy in Jena and remained there till 1920. As a lecturer, Eucken lacked nothing, he possessed captivating personality as well as tremendous retentive memory. It is said that he never read his lecture and most of his quotations were from memory. The cardinal point of his teaching is that 'that man is the meeting place of nature and of spirit, and that it is his duty and privilege to overcome his non-spiritual nature by incessant active striving after the spiritual life which involves all faculties, especially

will and intention.' 'Meyrick Booth says: "Viewed from the standpoint of Eucken's philosophy, human existence is one vast process of the realisation and appropriation of spiritual reality." <sup>2</sup>.

'The Truth of Religion' is undoubtedly Eucken's great work. This work he dedicated to the memory of the late King Oscar II., of Sweden.

In 1882 Eucken married Irene Passow.

In 1908 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature 'in recognition of the vigour of thought, the keenness and range of perception with which he has prosecuted his profound search for truth, and developed in his numerous works an exposition of an ideal attitude to life.'

He died on September 15, 1926.

1. Ency. Britannica.
2. Meyrick Booth: Collected Essays of Rudolf Eucken.

His chief writings are :

*Problem of Human Life as viewed by the  
Great Thinkers from Plato to the  
Present time*, 1890.

*Life's Basis and Life's Ideal*, 1907.

*The Meaning and Value of Life*, 1908.

*Main Currents of Modern Thought*, 1909.

*Truth of Religion*, 1911.

*Knowledge and Life*, 1912.

*Theory of Knowledge*, 1915.

## SELMA LAGERLOF (1858—).

Selma Lagerlof, Swedish writer and the only woman member of the Swedish Academy was born on November 20, 1858 at Marbacke in Vermland. She started her life as a teacher. She came into world prominence, since she won the Nobel Prize for literature. But she was already famous as the writer of *Gosta Berlings Saga* which appeared in two volumes in 1891 (English trans., 1898). This book is a collection of tales and legends of one particular district, loosely united in the person of Gosta Berling. *Uncuttable Links* (Osynliga Lankar) is also collection of stories which appeared in 1894.

The Swedish Academy appreciated her splendid services to literature and secured for her a yearly stipend. This stipend enabled her to devote herself entirely to writing and visit different places for the purpose of extending and

enriching her studies. *Miracles of Antichrist* (Antikrists Mirackler) depicting life in Sicily was the result of her visit to Italy and Sicily with a friend. In another romance, *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*, written for children, she has depicted the national character of the Swedish people and vividly painted various landscapes of Sweden. It relates the adventures of a boy who flies through Sweden on the back of a wild goose.

Her other two most important books are *Jerusalem* and *The Emperor of Portugallia*.

Henry Goddard Leach in the introduction to *Jerusalem* translated by Mrs. Velma Swanston Howard says something out of the ordinary and is worth quoting here. "Truth is stranger than fiction. *Jerusalem* is founded," says Leach, "upon the historic event of a religious pilgrimage from Dalecarlia in the last century. The writer of this introduction had opportunity to confirm this fact some years ago when he visited the parish in question and saw the abandoned farmsteads as well as homes to which some of the Jerusalem-farers had returned. And more than this, I had

an experience of my own which seemed to reflect this spirit of religious ecstasy. On my way to the inn toward midnight I met a cyclist wearing a blue jersey, and on the breast, instead of a college letter, was woven a yellow cross. On meeting me the cyclist dismounted and insisted on showing me the way. When he came to the inn I offered him a krona. My guide smiled as though he was possessed by a beatific vision. "No! I will not take the money, but the gentleman will buy my bicycle!" As I expressed my astonishment at this request, he smiled again confidently and replied: "In a vision last night the Lord appeared unto me and said that I should meet at midnight a stranger at the cross-roads speaking an unknown tongue and 'the stranger will buy thy bicycle!'"

Lagerlof's *Jerusalem* is one of the best psychological novels of the day, full of emotion and realistic touches.

We cannot close this sketch without mentioning her another romance, *The Outcast*, the English version of *Bannlyst*. Though it seems inferior to *The story of Gosta Berling* or

*Jerusalem*, it does not fail to transport its reader into a state of religious fervour.

In 1909 she was awarded the Nobel Prize "in appreciation of the wealth of imagination and the profoundly spiritual perception which is revealed by her poetry."

The following books have been translated by Pauline Bancroft Flach :—

*Gosta Berling's Saga.*

*Invisible Links.*

*Miracles of Antichrist.*

*The Outcast.* Trans. by W. W. Worster.

The following books have been translated by Velma Swanton Howard :—

*The Emperor of Portugallia.*

*Jerusalem.*

*The Wonderful Adventures of Nils.* A book for children.

PAUL JOHANN LUDWIG HEYSE  
(1830—1914).

Paul Johann Ludwig Heyse, German poet, novelist, and dramatist was born on March 15, 1830 at Berlin. He was educated at Berlin and Bonn. He was interested in classics and Romance languages.

He was one of the writers whom King Maximilian II of Bavaria summoned in 1854.

Heyse was a master of the short story. He wrote his short stories in a most attractive and at the same time humorous style. "In an excellent study of Heyse as a virtuoso of the short story," says Calvin Thomas, "George Brandes has remarked of him that his fancy works like that of a painter or sculptor, always intent on 'beautiful forms of movements, the pose of a graceful head, a charming peculiarity of posture or gait'; and that his



art consists in fixing such plastic visions by means of language rhythmically attuned to the nature of the subject.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1855 Heyse published a collection of short stories, one of which, *L'Arrabiata* attracted attention of the public. He also tried his hands at novels. His bulkiest novels are *Die Kinder der Welt* (1873) and *Im Paradies* (1875). He wrote poems and epics which are interesting to read, but have not proved very successful. He wrote many plays, among the best of his plays are: *Hans Lange* (1866), *Kolberg* (1868), *Salomo* (1886), and *Maria von Maglala* (1903). He translated many works of the notable Italian poets. Some of the translations of Shakespeare are admirably done by him.

In 1910 he was awarded the Nobel Prize “as a tribute to the imaginative quality of his art, as revealed during a long period of work as a lyricist, dramatist, novelist, and writer of world famous stories.”

He died at Munich on April 2, 1914.

1. Calvin Thomas : A History of German Literature.

His chief writings are :

*Hans Lange* (Mills & Boon).

*L'Arrabiala*. Trans. by Vivian Elsie  
Lyon.

*Mary of Magdala*. Trans. by W. Winter.

*Tales from the German of Paul Heyse*.  
(D. Appleton & Co.).

## MAURICE MAETERLINCK (1862——).

Maurice Maeterlinck, Belgian-French poet and dramatist was born on August 29, 1862 at Ghent. After finishing his education at the University of Ghent, he made Paris his home. At the death of his father, he had to return again to Belgium. In 1889 he published a book of poems, *Serres Chaudes*, it was followed by a play, *La Princesse Maleine*. Alfred Sutro, the able translator of many of the works of Maeterlinck says about these two books: "The one a collection of vague images woven into poetical form, charming, dreamy, and almost meaningless; the other a youthful and very remarkable effort at imitation."

In 1890 appeared two more plays, *L'Intruse* and *Les Aveugles*. His notable play of this period was *Pelleas et Melisande* (1892). It was followed by three little plays "for marionettes,"

among them being *La Mort de Tintagiles*, the play he himself prefers of all that he has written. His another important play, *Aglavaine et Selysette* appeared in 1896. The same year, he changed his subject and wrote a philosophical work, *Le Tresor de Humbles* (The Treasure of the Humble) and a monograph on the ethics of mysticism, entitled *La Sagesse et la destinee* (Wisdom and Destiny).

His *Treasure of the Humble* still remains a wonderful and beautiful book.

His another wonderful book is *the Life of the Bee* (1901). It is not 'a treatise on apiculture, or on practical bee-keeping.' The author says: "The reader of this book will not gather therefrom how to manage a hive; but he will know more or less all that can with any certainty be known of the curious, profound, and intimate side of its inhabitants." The Blackwood's Magazine of June, 1901 described it as 'a real classic' and went on to say that Maeterlinck prepared himself for his task by many years of study. And that he has watched his hives for twenty

years, and, aided by an incomparable gift of exposition, he is able to put before his readers the strange tragedy of love and work, of death and change, which is the life of the bee. His book, written with a simple eloquence, and rendered the more mysterious by the constant hiatus of science. . . the lover of the Queen, who sacrifices himself for the race, and dies in the fulfilment of his destiny.

*The Buried Temple* (1902) contains five of his pre-war essays.

*Life and Flowers* (1907) is a book of fragments. Two of the essays which in themselves pleasantly conspicuous, are those on *Rome* and on *King Lear*.

Maeterlinck is now known all over the world for his play *The Blue Bird*, a Fairy play in 6 acts. It was published for the first time in 1909. Since then it has run into hundreds of editions.

In conclusion of *The Great Secret* (1922), Maeterlinck says:—"The Great Secret, the only secret, is that all things are secret."

One of his recent works is *The Magic of the Stars*. In this book one feels pleasure to see the mind of Maeterlinck exercised on the significance of the latest truths 'discovered in astronomy. He also says in this book that humanity has not progressed in the idea of God beyond the hymns of the Rigveda.

In 1911 he was awarded the Nobel Prize "in appreciation of his many-sided literary activities, and especially of his dramatic works, which are distinguished by a wealth of imagination and by a poetic fancy which, under the guise of legend, shows deep penetration, mysteriously reflecting the unrealised emotions of the reader."

Most of the works of Maeterlinck have been translated into English by Alfred Sutro, Bernard Miall, and A. Teixeira de Mattos.

His chief writings are:—

*Our Eternity*  
*The Betrothal*  
*Mary Magdalene*  
*Death*

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NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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*The Unknown Guest*  
*The Wreck of the Storm*  
*The Treasure of the Humble*  
*Wisdom and Destiny*  
*The Life of the Bee*  
*The Buried Temple*  
*The Double Garden*  
*Life and Flowers*  
*Aglavaine and Selysettee*  
*Monna Vanna*  
*Joyzelle*  
*Sister Beatrice ; and Ardiane*  
*and Barbe Bleue*  
*Pelleas and Melisande*  
*My Dog*  
*Old Fashioned Flowers*  
*Hours of Gladness*  
*Poems*  
*The Miracle of Saint Anthony*  
*The Burgomaster of Stilemonde*  
*Mountain Paths*  
*The Great Secret*

Methuen and Co., are the publishers of the  
above mentioned books.

## GERHART HAUPTMANN (1862——).

Gerhart Hauptmann, German author was born on November 15, 1862 in Obersalzbrunn, Silesia.

His father was an inn-keeper who wanted his son to be a farmer. But Hauptmann's tendency was always towards art. He, therefore, spent about two years at the Breslau School of Art and became proficient in modelling and making sculptures. After spending a year at the Jena University he travelled through France, Spain, and Italy. In 1884 he went to Rome to start his career as a sculptor. His health did not permit him to stay there long, he, therefore, first shifted to Dresden and finally returned to Silesia and settled at Schreiberhan.

Hauptmann did not choose to be a writer but he possessed such natural literary gifts that



as soon as he started to write a series of dramas, he was at once placed at the head of the German dramatic writers of his time.

His first play, *Before Sunrise* (Vor Sonnenaufgang), published in 1888 was dismally clinical. No repulsive detail he spared. The story is this: "A brutish and besotted farmer has suddenly become rich by the discovery of coal on his premises, and has surrounded himself with the externalities of wealth. He is married to a second wife, who is a vulgar adulteress. By his first wife, who was addicted to drink, he has two daughters, one of whom, a married woman, is also a tippler. The other daughter is a winsome girl, who has been away at school and learned enough of decency and refinement, so that she realises in a helpless way the wretchedness of her surroundings. A young social scholar comes to the place to investigate the labour conditions in the coal-mine. He falls in love with Helene, engages himself to her, and he is deliriously happy. Presently he learns from a medical man of the family proneness to drink. Fearing that the taint may descend to his children if he

marries Helene, he runs like a poltroon; whereupon the girl commits suicide" <sup>1</sup>.

Hauptmann's most powerful play *Die Weber* appeared in 1892. In 1896 he abandoned realism for poetic allegory in *Die Versunkene Glocke* (*The Sunken Bell*, 1896) and *Und Pippa Tanzt* (1906). Though they are fairy pieces, are not devoid of poetry, romantic charm and imagination.

Hauptmann has also written some excellent comedies. But his verses are not up to the mark. His two stories: *Der Narr in Christus Emanuel Quint* (1910) and *Der Ketzer von Soana* (1918) stand to his credit for their perfection in form and content.

His novel *Atlantis* which appeared in 1912 has found a place among the best of the modern German novels.

In 1912 he was awarded the Nobel Prize "in special recognition of the distinction and the wide range of his creative work in the realm of dramatic poetry."

I. Calvin Thomas: A History of German Literature.

His chief writings are :

*The Dramatic Works.* Authorised Translation, 9 Vols.

*Phantom.* (Fiction).

*The Heretic of Soana.* (Fiction).

*The Island of the Great Mother.* (Fiction).

*Hannele.* (Play).

Martin Secker are the publishers of the above mentioned books.

*The Sunken Bell.* Trans. by Charles Henry Meltzer. New York. *Sunken Bell* was chosen for the Nobel Prize.

*Atlantis.* Trans. by Adele and Thomas Seltzer.

## DR. RABINDRANATH TAGORE. (1861—<sup>1</sup>).

Dr. Rabindranath Tagore,<sup>1</sup> Bengali poet, dramatist, novelist, philosopher, and artist was born on May 6, 1861 in Calcutta. He is the youngest son of Maharshi Devendranath Tagore.

Tagore received his education partly in his own home and partly in some private institutions, such as, Oriental Seminary, Normal School. Tagore says in his *Reminiscences*: “I could not have been long at the Oriental Seminary, for I was still of tender age when I joined the Normal School.”

Tagore lost his mother when he was a mere boy, his up-bringing, therefore, devolved much on the servants of his household. In 1877 for the first time he went to England with his father to receive his education. He read for sometime with Henry Morley and returned to

1. *Tagore* is an anglicised form of *Thakur*.

India just after a year and started writing abundantly on all subjects in Bengali. At this time, he did all the editorial work of a Bengali magazine, *Bharati*. His reading of English covers a wide range and nobody knew that he is also a master of poetical English till his *Gitanjali* was published.

Tagore is a born poet and it is no wonder that he should commence to write poetry at the age of eight. Though he was born with a silver-spoon in his mouth, he led a very simple and austere life. Luxury was a thing almost unknown in his household. "Our food," he says, "had nothing to do with delicacies. A list of our articles of clothing would only invite the modern boy's scorn. On no pretext did we wear socks or shoes till we had passed our tenth year. In the cold weather a second cotton tunic over the first one sufficed. It never entered our heads to consider ourselves ill-off for that reason."<sup>1</sup>

When he was a mere boy, Tagore made acquaintance with the poetry of Viharilal Chakravarti. 'The artless flute-strains of his lyrics'

1. Tagore: My Reminiscences.

awoke for the first time within him the music of fields and forest-glades and made him anxious to become a poet like him.

Next to Viharilal's poems, Tagore was keen student of old Vaishnava poems. He mastered the technique and language of Vidyapati so well that he himself was able to produce many imitation of Vidyapati's *Maithili* poems under the pseudonym, *Vanu Singha*. As soon as this period of imitation was over, Tagore's full birth as an original poet commenced. His *Prokata Sangita* (the Songs of Sunrise) and *Sandhya Sangita* (Evening Songs) are the output of this period. Since then, in poetry, Tagore has passed through several stages and the final stage certainly centres round the collection of poems which make up his *Gitanjali*.

Tagore is one of the greatest lyric poets of Bengal and his *Urbashi* is perhaps the greatest lyric in all Bengali literature. So are his, 'The Awakening of the Waterfall' and 'Sonar Tore.' In 'Sonar Tore' Tagore tells of "a man who has spent the day gathering his harvest and finds himself at dusk with the storm coming on separated from the village by a stream which he

cannot cross. Suddenly there looms in sight a boat and to the Being in the boat the man prays that he and his harvest may be taken over the stream. The golden harvest is placed on board, but there is no room for the man, and the boat bearing his harvest passes on leaving the harvester behind.”<sup>1</sup>

It is the opinion of many critics that the lyrical poems of Tagore are greater than his devotional ones.

Tagore's ballads: Tagore has also tried his hands at ballads and has made them unique of their kind. “The most wonderful thing,” says Sir Jadunath Sarkar, “about these ballads of Tagore, it seems to me, is the way in which his genius has woven such complete pictures of life out of the barest statement of fact in the ancient legends out of which his ballads are taken.”

Tagore's plays: Tagore's plays are all symbolical. To the English readers, *Chitra*, *The King of the Dark Chamber*, *The Post Office*, and *The Cycle of Spring* are all well-known. From time

1. R. C. Bonnerjee: Poetry of Rabindranath

Tagore. (Calcutta Review, 1912).

to time, Tagore's *Post Office* has been staged in many principle cities of Europe. It was also staged in Millan under the title *The King's Letter*.

Tagore's songs: His songs are sung in every household where Bengali is spoken. He has himself composed more than two thousand songs. Tagore says: "I am always reluctant to publish books of the words of songs for therein the soul must needs be lacking."

Tagore's Novels: *Gora* is certainly his masterpiece. His other two best novels are: *The Home and the World* and *The Wreck*. In *the Wreck*, the story relates to two ill-starred people who are wrecked in a boat journey and who have to pass through various vissitudes in life, one complication succeeding another. Ramesh has just married and in the confusion of the wreck, he rescues Kamala and is under the impression that she is his wife, while his wife was really dead !

Tagore's Short Stories: His short stories are really short, yet they are masterly psychological



studies. They shine like diamonds in the diadem of the Bengali literature. His best short stories are: *Private Tutor*, *Hungry Stones*, *Skeleton*, *Clouds and Sunshine*, *Dallia*, *Kabuliwalla*, *Foolish Hopes*, *The Elder Sister*, *Living or Dead* (Kadambāri by dying made proof that she had been alive!).

Tagore's Religion: Tagore never forgets that his first and final vocation is that of a poet. While others strive to seek God through penance and severe austerities, he finds God always close to his thought. He says:

“Leave this chanting and singing and telling of beads! Whom dost thou worship in this lonely dark corner of a temple with doors all shut?”

“Open thine eyes and see thy God is not before thee!”

Tagore's Hibbert Lectures (1930) collected and published under the title *Religion of Man* is a thought-provoking book and should be read by one and all, for, Religion is the dominant thing in our lives.

Tagore's Philosophy—The best summary of his system of thought is to be found in his *Sadhana*, a book based on the teaching of the Upanishads. His main theme is Realisation. Realisation—of the soul's union with all life, and with God! *Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore* by Sir S. Radha Krishnan will be of great value to all students of Tagore.

Tagore as an Educationist:—In 1901 Tagore established the famous Shantiniketan at Bolpur, 'an important educational institution conducted on unconventional lines.' This University now approaches an international University and is known to all the world as "The Viswa-Bharati." In explaining the aims and ideals of the Viswa-Bharati, Rabindranath Tagore says : "The Western Universities give their students an opportunity to learn what all the European peoples have contributed to their Western culture. What is needed to complete this illumination is for the East to collect its own scattered lamps and offer them to the enlightenment of the world."

‘Visva-bharati represents India where she has her wealth of mind which is for all. Visva-bharati acknowledges India’s obligation to offer to others the hospitality of her best culture and India’s right to accept from others their best.’ (Tagore: Visva-Bharati Bulletin No. 12).

Tagore as a Nationalist: Tagore is a Nationalist but without any pose. He wholeheartedly condemns ‘Nationalism of the predatory and selfish type—and of the type which stands up for *My country, right or wrong.*!’<sup>1</sup>

Tagore cannot bear to see any injury done either to any innocent individual or to any innocent sect or community, no matter to what country or what nationality it belongs.

Tagore pays homage, where homage is due. He is one of the great admirers of Mahatma Gandhi.<sup>2</sup> In an splendid article, *The Cult of the Charka*, he says: “Nothing is more wonderful to me than Mahatma’s great moral personality. In him divine providence has given us a burning

1. Modern Review, March, 1931.

2. Ibid. September, 1925.

thunderbolt of *Shakti*. May this *Shakti* give power to India—not overwhelm her,—that is my prayer!”

Again Tagore is not a blind admirer. Where he needs to differ, he differs. When Mahatma Gandhi looked Rammohan Roy, as a pigmy; in the same article, Tagore vindicated thus: “The difference in our standpoints and temperaments has made the Mahatma look upon Rammohan Roy as a pigmy, while I revere him as a giant.” In this connection it may be mentioned here that in 1915 he accepted a Knighthood but in 1919 he resigned it as a protest against repression in the Punjab.<sup>1</sup> In his letter to Lord Chelmsford, renouncing his Knighthood, what Tagore said, is almost classic and will ring for all time in the ears of the people who have any regard for peace, honour and justice. In that memorable letter Tagore says: “The accounts of insults and sufferings, undergone by our brothers in the Punjab, have trickled through the gagged silence, reaching every

1. He still has his Knighthood. Only his publishers use it now.

corner of India, and the universal agony of indignation roused in the hearts of our people has been ignored by our rulers—possibly congratulating themselves for importing what they imagine a salutary lesson.

“The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in their incongruous context of humiliation, and I, for my part wish, to stand shorn of all special distinction by the side of those of my countrymen who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer a degradation not fit for human beings.”

‘If we want to have a precedent to this, we must go back to him alone; and his refusal to visit Canada and deliver lectures at the Canadian Universities because of the injustice done to the Indians settled in Canada is the only other that can be compared to this resignation prompted by simple and pure fellow-feeling and regard for the mother-country.’ (Everyman’s Review, Madras, June, 1919.)

Tagore’s *Gitanjali*: *Gitanjali* (Song Offerings) which for the first time brought the Nobel Prize to a poet and thinker of the East, was first

published by the India Society, London, in 1912 in a beautiful limited edition. It has been dedicated to the well-known artist, William Rothenstein. The introduction from the pen of W. B. Yeats, one of the greatest of living poets, is, as famous to-day as the *Gitanjali* itself. In the Introduction, Yeats says: "I have carried the manuscript of these translations about with me for days, reading it in railway trains, or on the top of omnibuses and in restaurants, and I have often had to close it lest some stranger would see how much it moved me."

In 1913 Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize "in recognition of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful poetry, whereby he has, with consummate skill, introduced his poetic thought, in English guise, to the literature of the West."

Since then Tagore with his finely chiselled features is familiar to the whole world. In many European and Oriental countries, societies in his name have been formed. In 1927 Countess Metaxa, a Greek lady of high culture founded a

Tagore Society in Waseda (Japan) for the study of the work's of Rabindranath Tagore.

Tagore as Painter : Tagore is already known to us as poet, seer, patriot, humanist, and educationist. But as painter, he never made himself known to us before. This freshest creation of his, he first made known in the West and from the West he let the world know of his paintings. He did this because 'his pictures are his gift to the world, while his gift to India is his poetry.' The following lines will reveal to the readers, what Tagore himself thinks of his own paintings: "Sir Francis Younghusband presided at a meeting of the India Society at the rooms of the British Indian Union, in London recently, when many recent paintings of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore were exhibited. The poet spoke of his discovery that he could paint in lines as well as words. He said that until he arrived in Europe recently, he was very diffident as to the merit of his paintings, but he was encouraged by the enthusiasm for them shown by some artists he chanced to meet in the south of France, who insisted on his exhibiting some of them in Paris.

The judgment of some of their famous critics was extremely favourable. He was asked what preliminary training he had received, and his answer was that his training from childhood was in words, not in lines. He had an inborn sense of rhythm, even when he did not fully understand poetry. Verse, especially Sanskrit verse, had an intense fascination for him, and since then, as they knew, he had been doing nothing better than turning out verse, a task in which he found a deep sort of ecstasy. Only those creations of the poet or of the artist had a right to survive which had their proper balance, for inter-relation was a principle of creation. He might be told that some of the pictures before them were weird; but then, there were weird pictures in the history of creation. Camels were very weird; but in its own surroundings in the desert the camel was complete. He had found in his paintings a means for the expression of reality. His discovery of this medium had given him intense satisfaction and pride—a pride such as all artists should have in achievement.” (Modern Review, August, 1930).



In 1932 when Tagore completed the seventieth<sup>th</sup> year of his life, a commemoration volume, containing contributions from his friends and admirers in the East and the West—poets, authors, scholars and artists—as offerings of their homage and tribute to the poet, was brought out entitled *The Golden Book of Tagore*. It is a unique book and deserves to be placed by the side of *A Book of Homage to Shakespeare*, edited by Gollancz. The credit for the success of such a splendid production undoubtedly goes to Mr. Ramananda Chatterji, the editor of “The Modern Review.”

His chief writings are :—

Poems :—*Gitanjali*.

*The Crescent Moon.*

*The Gardener.*

*Fruit-Gathering.*

*Stray Birds.*

*The Lover's Gift and Crossing.*

*The Parrot's Training.*

*One Hundred Poems of Kabir.*

Play :—*Chitra*.

*The Post Office.*

*Red Oleanders.*

*The King of the Dark Chamber.*

*The Cycle of Spring.*

Novels :—*The Home and the World.*

*Gora.*

*The Wreck.*

Short

Stories :—*Hungry Stones and other Stories.*

*Broken Ties and other Stories.*

*Mashi and other Stories.*

Essays :—*Nationalism.*

*Personalities.*

*Sadhana.*

Auto-

biography :—*My Reminiscences.*

Macmillan & Co., are the publishers of the above mentioned books.

*The Religion of Man* (Hibbert Lectures, 1930). (George Allen & U).

*The Golden Boat.* (Poems). (George Allen & U.).

## ROMAIN ROLLAND (1866—).

Romain Rolland, French author, was born at Clamecy on January 29, 1866. He received his early education at Clamecy and later in Paris. After graduating successfully, he took up teaching as a profession. In 1895 he was appointed a professor of art and history at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, where he himself as a student specialized in history. Besides his brilliant academic career, he possessed a taste for music and knew much about great musicians, their art, and their peculiarities. While holding the post of a professor at Sorbonne, Rolland made himself known as a good critical writer by his brilliant studies on *Millet* (1902), *Beethoven* (1903) and *Michael Angelo* (1906). But he is also a man of intense genius, the world did not know till he brought out his biography of an imaginary German musician,

*Jean Christophe* (1904—1912). It is a huge novel in successive books.

Vol. I.—*Dawn and Morning.*

Vol. II.—*Storm and Stress.*

Vol. III.—*John Christopher in Paris.*

Vol. IV.—*Journey's End.*

The Original French edition is in 10 volumes. It is an international novel, 'as well-known in Italy, almost as well-known in Germany and England, as in France.' Since Gilbert Cannan translated it into English, it is now well-known in India also.

During the World War of 1914, Rolland contributed a series of articles in the *Journal de Geneve* and later it came out in book form under the title *Au-dessus de la Melee*. For these humane writings, he suffered some loss of reputation in France. But his popularity immensely increased abroad. Two of his plays, *Danton* and *Le 14 Julliet* (The Fourteenth of July) gained enthusiastic admiration for him in Berlin. *The Fourteenth of July* is a play of the

French Revolution. Some of the lines in the author's note are worth remembering. Such as : "If you wish to represent a tempest, you must not describe each wave, but a whole angry sea : an exact rendering of details is much less important than the passionate sweeping truth of the whole.

"The end of art is not dreams, but life. Action should spring from the spectacle of action."

Among the modern French writers, Rolland is liked most in India for his broad sympathy and the proper understanding of the Indian character, culture, religion and philosophy. His *Mahatma Gandhi : The Man Who Became One with the Universal Being*, is still the best book on this great Indian leader. His another book, dealing with another Indian subject, is, *Ramakrishna : The Man-God and the Universal Gospel of Vivekananda*. In this book Rolland has tried to show how in the life and teaching of Sri Ramakrishna and Vivekananda both the East and the West have their highest ideals and aspirations realised.

Among his later works of fictions, *L'Ame Enchantée* (The Soul Enchanted, 1922), is the best. It is in two volumes :

Vol. I. *Annette and Sylvie*.

Vol. II. *Summer*.

In 1913, Rolland was awarded the Grand Prix of the French Academy.

In 1915, he was awarded the Nobel Prize "as a tribute to the lofty idealism of his writings, and to the wide understanding of human nature springing from a profound sympathy, which they reveal."

He gave away the prize money for "the mitigation of the miseries of Europe." <sup>1</sup>

His chief writings are :—

*John Christopher*, 4 vols., trans. by Gilbert Cannan, 1911—1913. (Heinemann).

*The Fourteenth of July*. Trans. by Barrett H. Clark. (George Allen & U.)

1. Stefan Zweig: Romain Rolland.

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NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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*Above the Battle.* (Books of the War).

*The Forerunner.* A sequel to the *Above the Battle.*

*The Soul Enchanted (L'ame enchantée)*  
2 vols. (Thornton Butterworth).

*Mahatma Gandhi.* (Swartmore Press).

## VERNER VON HEIDENSTAM (1859—).

Verner von Heidenstam, Swedish author, was born on July 6, 1859 in Olshammar. Since his childhood he kept an indifferent health, and when he was quite a youth, his lung-troubles compelled him to go to a place of milder climate. He spent several years in wandering in the East. He remained for a considerable time in Turkey and Egypt and was much impressed by oriental manners and customs. After regaining his health, he returned home and gave his impressions of the oriental life in a collection of poems entitled *Vallfart och Vandringsaar* ('Pilgrimage and Years of Wandering,' 1888). This was followed by an oriental story, *Endymion* (1889). After this, he brought out his great work, *Hans Alienus*, a book of conspicuously beautiful verse concerning a pilgrimage in search of beauty. Such subjects are always after his heart, for, in



his youth he himself fell in love with a Swiss girl and married her. His pen has the quality of a painter's brush and the reason is not far to seek, for, at one time in his youth he was very ambitious to be a first-rate painter.

His great prose work, *Karolinern*, 2 vols., 1897—98 (English trans. 'The Carlists'), dealing with the time of King Charles II., indicates the author's transition to national ideas.

In 1915, by his *Nya Dikter*, he brought himself to the front rank of the modern Swedish Poets. The idealistic tendency is most prominent in all his writings.

In 1916, he was awarded the Nobel Prize "in recognition of this importance as representing a new epoch in Swedish literature."

His Chief writings are :—

*Selected poems.* (Oxford Press).

*Selected stories.* (Harrop).

*Charles Men.* (Allen and U).

*Heliga Brigittas Pilgrims fard*

(St. Brigitta's Pilgrimage, 1901).

## KARL GJELLERUP (1857—1919).

Karl Gjellerup, Danish poet and author, was born on July 2, 1857 at Roholte, Zealand. Though he was the son of a clergyman and studied theology, he never wanted himself to be a clergyman. He also showed this by writing an anti-theological novel, entitled *The Disciple of the Teutons* (1882).

Georg Brandes, one of the most learned critics of Europe and the author of the monumental works, *Main Currents in Nineteenth Century Literature*. (English version, 6 vols.) exercised great influence on poets like Gjellerup, and Gjellerup in homage to Brandes, wrote many books in which 'modernist doctrines' were most conspicuous.

For reasons of health, he left his home country and after a prolonged journey in Europe, he settled for sometime in Dresden. In Dresden

he took to writing earnestly and wrote many dramas and novels displaying various aspects of human life and character. He also wrote many books on music and art. His two novels, *Minna* and *Mollen* (The Mill) deal with 'eternal problems in the ethical manner of Schiller.'

In his later years he was deeply moved by the writings of classical authors and turned out the following books :

*Die Opferfeuer* (1903).

*Das Weil der Vollendeten* (1907).

*Die Weltwanderer* (1910).

*Der goldens Zweig* (1917).

*Romulus* (1924).

In *Minna*, Dresden is for its back-ground. In *Die Weltwanderer*, the scene is laid in India. In *The Pilgrim Kamanita* (Der Pilger Kamanota), again the scene is laid in India, on the banks of the Ganges, during the time of Lord Buddha. Kamanita is the son of a rich merchant of Avanti, who is sent on business to the Court of the King Udena in Kosambi. And thus begins his 'Pilgrimage.' It is a legendary romance.

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KARL GJELLERUP

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In 1917 Gjellerup shared the Nobel Prize with Pontoppidan "for his varied and rich poetry, which is inspired by lofty ideals."

He died on October 13, 1919.

His Chief Writings are :—

*The Pilgrim Kamanita.* Trans. by J. E. Logie. (London).

*Minna.* Trans. by C. L. Neilson. (London)

## HENRIK PONTOPPIDAN (1857—).

Henrik Pontoppidan, Danish author, was born on July 24, 1857 at Frederica, Jutland. He wanted to be an engineer and studied physics and mathematics at the University of Copenhagen. He is very fond of travelling, is evident from the fact that when he was eighteen years of age, he travelled on foot through Germany and Switzerland. It is said that while he stayed at Switzerland, he had his first love affair.

He appears to have studied thoroughly the life and conditions of the peasants of his own country. He wrote many novels but remained pretty obscure till his trilogy was published. These three stories are :—

*Muld* (Soil, 1891).

*Det Forfæltedeland* (The Promised Land, 1892).

*Dommens Dag* (The Kingdom of the Dead).

In 1898, Pontoppidan started a new series entitled *Lykke Per*. It is the story of a typical Jutlander. It was completed in 1904. His another trilogy, *De Dodes Rige* (1912—16) deals with the first decade of the twentieth century.

Pontoppidan is very vivid in his descriptions and his stories always centre round the Danish life and disclose all its aspects.

In 1917 he shared the Nobel Prize with Gjellerup "for his vital description of present-day life in Denmark."

His chief writings are :—

*Fra Hytterne*, 1887.

*Folkelivesskildrningar*. 2 Parts, 1888—90.

*Skyer*, 1890.

*Emanuel or Children of the Soil*. Trans.  
by Mrs. Edgar Lucas. London.

*The Promised Land*. Trans. by Mrs.  
Edgar Lucas. London.

*The Apothecary's Daughter*. Trans.  
by C. L. Nielson. London.

## CARL SPITTELER (1845—1924).

Carl Spitteler, Swiss poet, essayist, and novelist was born on April 24, 1845 at Liestal, near Basle. He studied theology but not with the intention of becoming a minister. His ambition was to become a poet. His first important work *Prometheus and Epimetheus* came out in 1880 under the pseudonym of 'Feliz Tandem'. This is a very long epic written in a rhythmical prose. Romain Rolland, another Nobel Laureate says of this epic : "I was struck by his *Prometheus and Epimetheus*, by its very ruggedness, its chaotic aspect—the violence of the sap running riot which seems to shoot from the trunk of the oak, gigantic foliage, which develops here, myths, apologues, parables of a simple and familiar grandeur, and there some savage symbols which seem to emerge from some

fable-book of the Middle Ages. Or one is fascinated by the incomparable joy of that symphony, the Swiss Pastoral—Pandora! One would be reminded of young Beethoven with his ardent gallops, yet already charged with experience and breaking with herculean arms all the shackles of thought and form, as in the latest Quartettes.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1883 Spitteler brought out a book of verse entitled *Extramundana*. This was followed by *Schmetterlinge* (Butterflies) in 1889. His other volumes of short poems are: *Literarische Gleich*, *Balladen*, *Glockenlieder* (Bell Songs).

His great book, an epic, *Olympischer Frühling* for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize came out at intervals from 1900 to 1905. The English title of this epic is *Olympian Spring*. Let us once more read the beautiful lines of Romain Rolland on this epic. Rolland says: “One feels to one’s advantage in the *Olympian Spring* the strong will, the intellectual order, the sublime play of creation—*Apollo the Hero*

1. Romain Rolland: A Modern Epic Genius—Carl Spitteler. Trans. by Dr. Kalidas Nag. (Modern Review, Sept., 1925).



(title of a song in *Olympian Spring*). What an exuberant flowering of dreams, visions, inventions, magnificent and charming, everything new, fresh, springing, healthy and frank. The spring unfolds itself; full springtide on the mountains and on the sky the flower of the stars! That is a new world by itself—the world of myths and gods—one seems to be intoxicated with it.”

Spitteler's prose writings include :

*Imago*, *Lachende Wahrheiten* (Laughing Truth), *Die Mädchenfeinde* (Two Little Miso-gynists), *Meine Fruhesten Erlebnisse*, an account of his childhood.

Spittler's three epics—the first, *Prometheus and Epimetheus* and the second *Der Olympischer Fruhling* (Olympian Spring) are already familiar to our readers. His third epic *Prometheus der Dulder*, the mature treatment of the theme of his first epic, was published in December, 1924 only fifteen days before his death.

In 1919, Spitteler was awarded the Nobel Prize “in appreciation as especially of his powerful epic, ‘*Olympischer Fruhling*’.”

His chief writings are :—

*Prometheus and Epithemus.*

Oympischer Fruhling (*Olympian Spring*).

*Prometheus der Dulder.*

*Laughing Truths.* Trans. by James F. Muirhead. (Putnam).

*Selected Poems.* (Putnam).

## KNUT HAMSDUN (1859—).

Knut Hamsun (Knut Pedersen Hamsun), Norwegian author was born on August 4, 1859 at Lom, a deep valley of northern Norway. He came of poor parents. His childhood was spent under the roof of an uncle who was a clergyman. He built his house above the ocean stream, Glimma. Hamsun, a solitary child, without any playmate, 'found his chief amusement in roaming about in the cemetery, spelling out the inscriptions on crosses and slabs, making up stories about them, and talking to himself or listening to the wind rustling in the grass that grew tall on neglected graves'.<sup>1</sup>

His uncle also had no money to send Hamsun to school. Hamsun was, therefore, apprenticed to a cobbler in the city of Bodo. Henceforth Hamsun spent about twelve years wandering from place to place and picking up one occupation after another. Sometime he worked as road-mender or coal-trimmer. On the prairies he worked

1. H. A. Larsen : *Knut Hamsun*.

as a labourer. Once he 'worked as a train-conductor on the old Halsted Street line of horse-cars in Chicago—where, according to a legend which has every mark of authenticity, he infuriated patrons of the company by being so deep in a pocket Euripides that he carried them past their stops, and was duly discharged therefor.' (Wilson Bulletin).

Hamsun met with many vicissitudes of life and most of the time, till his great book *Hunger* came out, he made a precarious living. Larsen, whom we have already quoted once says: "Once he cursed God. • He had begged a bone of a butcher under pretense of giving it to his dog, and hid it under his coat until he came to a doorway where he could take it out and gnaw it. But the noxious bits came up again as fast as he could swallow them, while the tears streamed from his eyes, and his whole body shook with nausea. Then he screamed out his imprecations: 'I tell you, you sacred Ba'al of heaven, you do not exist but if you did I would curse you so that your heaven should tremble with the fires of hell . . .'"

“In 1888, in a Danish magazine came out a portion of his novel *Sult*, which is now so well-known to the English readers, as *Hunger*. This book is considered to be in substance the record of his own earlier experiences. Two years later *Hunger* came out in a book form and made its author at once famous.

Since the appearance of *the Growth of the Soil* (‘Markens Grode’) in 1917, he had published among other minor works, *Mysteries* (1892), *Pan* (1894), *Victoria* (1898), *Munken Vendt* (1902), *The Wild Chorus* (1904), *Wanderers*, *Shallow Soil* (1893), *Dreams* (1904), *Children of the Age* (1913), *Segelfoss City* (1915).

*The Growth of the Soil* is regarded as Hamsun’s ‘greatest triumph’ and presently it will be seen that it was as author of this book, that he was chosen for the Nobel Prize.

In 1920, Hamsun was awarded the Nobel Prize “for his monumental work, *Markens Grode*.”

His chief writings are :—

*Hunger* (Duckworth).

*Growth of the Soil.* (Gyldendal).

*Vagabonds* (Cassell).

*Mysteries* (George Allen & U.)

*Women at the Pump* (George Allen  
& U.).

## ANATOLE FRANCE (1844—1924).

Anatole France (Jacques Anatole Thibault), French author, poet, and critic, was born in Paris, in 1844. His father had a big bookseller's business. In the book-shop many of the greatest writers and original thinkers of the day used to gather and Anatole France, who since his birth had a visionary cast of mind, could not but feel inspired by their presence.

Being the only child in the family, France was too much petted by his mother and grand-mother, but on no occasion he was allowed to go astray or misbehave. James Lewis May, one of his best biographers says: "Anatole France was evidently a mother's boy. With his father's views he invariably disagreed. The circumstance is not uncommon.... Maternal instinct is a better guide than paternal reason. Madame France even went counter to Monsieur Dubois, who had enjoined the boy never to think of being an author; for, he said, the literary career was one in which moderate success was less desirable than

downright failure. As soon as Monsieur Dubois' back was turned, she kissed her son on the nape of his neck and whispered in his ear: 'Be a writer, my son; you have brains, and you will make the envious hold their tongue'.<sup>1</sup>

Now the whole world knows what a great and international author, Anatole France was.

After a brilliant career in pure journalism, Anatole France took up writing as a profession. His biographical study of *Alfred de Vigny* appeared in 1868. In 1873, he invited criticism as a poet by his *Poemes Dorés*. Three years later it was followed by *Les Noces Corintheiennes* (The Bride of Corinth), a poetic play. Since then his industry found expression in numbers of critical studies of great acuteness and faultlessly written novels. He opened the gate of his fame for the first time by *The Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard* in 1881. *My Friend's Book* appeared in 1885. From 1889—1895 there is hardly any year in which he did not publish one or two

1. James Lewis May: *Anatole France*. (Monsieur Dubois was 'scholar and gentleman, of the old school, antiquary, friend and councillor of the France family'.)



books: *Balthazar* (short stories) 1889, *Thais* (1890), *Life and Letters* (four series) 1891—92, *Mother of Pearl* (1892), *At the Sign of the Reine Pedauque*, (1893), *The Opinions of M. Jerome Coignard* (1893), *The Red Lily* (1894), *The Garden of Epicurus* (1895), and *The Well of St. Clare* (1895).

We have already seen that almost all the Nobel Laureates are great travellers. Anatole France did not prove an exception to this practice. He travelled in France and abroad widely. In 1909, he went on a lecturing tour to the Argentine, unfortunately, France was not an orator. ‘Moreover, the Archbishop of Buenos Ayres denounced him in a sort of pontifical edict. No women attended his lectures, and an audience without women is bound to be somewhat lugubrious.’

Similarly, in 1922, the Pope ordered the works of Anatole France to be placed on the list of books banned by the Catholic Church, the *Index Expurgatorius*. *Encyclopædia Britannica* says of Anatole France: “An opponent of

I. James Lewis May: *Anatole France*.

Church and State, he seemed to put his faith in the people and to expect the world to be renewed by some kind of revolution. On this point his ideas remained rather vague."

Two greatest events of his life took place successively in 1920 and 1921. In 1920, he was married to Mademoiselle Emma Laprevotte. In 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Prize "in recognition of his brilliant work as an author, which is characterised by nobility and vigour of style and by wide human sympathy, and is typical of the French genius."

As a storyteller, France holds the highest place in the world's literature. *Balthazar* and *Crainquille* are best known of his shorter stories. Among his numerous novels *The Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard* and *Thais* are undoubtedly the best. The former he wrote to please the public and the latter to please himself.

France was a deep student of human nature and as such, he has shown in his books, human nature in all its moods and tenses. His style is perfect and clear, and his language is full of rhythm and sweetness.

Before his death he expressed a desire to be buried like Sainte-Beuve. The following lines written by France himself in his *Boswellian Record* by Jean-Jacques Brousson (Thornton Butterworth) are pathetic but frank confessions: "How should I like to be buried? Like Sainte-Beuve. He managed to take his leave with the discretion of a man of wit, on tip-toe, if I may say so. No solemn announcement: No religious ceremonies. Let us spare the living these mortuary allegories and draperies, these gross, ridiculous symbols. Since we must go, let us take the shortest road. I love women too well to wish to sadden those who will pass me on my last drive . . ."

France died on October 13, 1924 at Tours.

His chief writings are:

The works of Anatole France. In English. Edited by Frederic Chapman and J. Lewis May. The New Popular Edition. (John Lane). *My Friend's Book. The Well of St. Clare. Pierre Noziere. Mother of Pearl. Balthas-*

*ar. Crainquébille. Thais. The Red Lily. The Bride of Corinth. At the Sign of the Reine Pedanque. The Aspirations of Jean Servien. The Garden of Epicurus. The Revolt of the Angels. Jocasta and the Famished Cat. The Elm Tree in the Mall. The Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard. Penguin Island. The Gods are Athirst. The Seven Wines of Bluebeard. On Life and Letters (Series I—IV). The Life of Joan of Arc. 3 Vols.*

## JACINTO BENAVENTE (1866—).

Jacinto Benavente, the Spanish dramatist was born in Madrid, in 1866. His father was a physician who wanted his son to be a barrister.

Even when he was a schoolboy, Benavente was greatly inclined towards actors and theatres. Clowns and their gestures used to amuse him immensely. With such a bent of mind, it was not possible for young Benavente to go on with his studies. He soon left the University.

Now being absolutely free from any occupation, he tried his hands at many things. He first published a book of poems but nobody cared to read it. He then wrote a play called *El Teatro Fantastico* (1893), this too proved a failure. But he remained always undaunted. He soon found an opportunity to join a circus and travel from place to place in Russia. While he was with this circus, he learnt many things about the stage and theatrical devices.

But he never allowed his ambition to cool down in order to become a writer. He tried his

hands also at prose and brought out *Cartas de Mujeres* (Women's Letters). He again returned to dramas and published several of them.

In 1901, he gave to the public his *Sacrificio* and in 1902, his *Alma Triunfante* (The Soul Triumphant) and made himself known as a satirist. Being elated by the success, he brought out more plays: *Noche del Sabado* (Saturday Night, 1903), *Mas Fuerte que el Amor* (Stronger Than Love, 1906), *Los Ojos de los Muertos* (The Eyes of the Dead, 1907), *Princesa Bebe* (1909), *La Escuela de las Princesas* (The School of the Princesses, 1909).

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*Los Intereses creados* (Created Interests, 1909) is supposed to be Benavente's profoundest work. *La Ciudad Alegre y Confiada* (The Gay and Confident City) published in 1916, is the sequel of the former play.

In 1913, Benavente soared to the highest pinnacle of his fame by producing *La Malquerida* (The Passion Flower). The same year he was elected to the chair of Marcelino Menéndez y Pelayo in the Spanish Academy.

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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Benavente has produced about one hundred and fifty plays. Several of them have been translated into various languages and produced in remote parts of the world.

In 1922, Benavente was awarded the Nobel Prize "for the happy manner in which he has carried on the honourable traditions of the Spanish Drama."

His chief writings are :—

*Plays.* Trans. by J. G. Underhill.  
(Scribner's).

*The Vulgar.*

*The Mistress of the House.*

*Saturday Night.*

*The Rose of Autumn.*

*Vested Interests.*

*Brute Force.*

*The Passion Flower.*

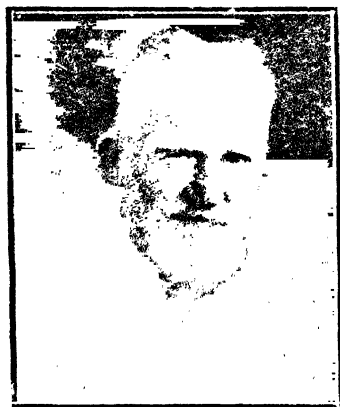




## IRISH RECIPIENTS



WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS 192



GEORGE BERNARD SHAW 192

## WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS (1865—).

William Butler Yeats, Irish poet, was born on June 13, 1865 at Sandymount near Dublin. His father J. B. Yeats was a well-known artist. W. B. Yeats will 'always be of special interest to Indians as it was his discriminating and enthusiastic praise of the *Gitanjali*, ushered into the English language with his introduction,\* that began Rabindranath Tagore's recognition in the West.'<sup>1</sup>

Yeats published his first book of poems *The Wanderings in Oisín* in 1889 when he was twenty four years old. It immediately attracted attention of the lovers of genuine poetry. The foundation stone of his fame was thus laid. He now made London his permanent residence and came in contact with many young writers. In 1892 his first poetic play *The Countess Cathleen*.

1. P. Seshadri: *Contemporary English Poetry*.

came out. "When I wrote my *Countess Cathleen*," says Yeats, "I thought, of course, chiefly of the actual picture that was forming before me, but there was a secondary meaning that came into my mind continuously. 'It is the soul of one that loves Ireland,' I thought, 'plunging into unrest, seeming to lose itself, to bargain itself away to the very wickedness of the world, and to surrender what is eternal for what is temporary.'"<sup>2</sup> In 1924, it was followed by another play *The Land of Heart's Desire*. In 1897, he published three books of prose: *The Tables of the Law*, *The Secret Rose*, and *The Adoration of the Magi*. Prior to these appeared a volume of essays *The Celtic Twilight*. Yeats was all along intensely thinking how to form an Irish Theatre. Andrew E. Malone describes this event thus: "To one of these came the idea that Ireland ought to have a national drama of its own; and when that idea came to W. B. Yeats, the Irish drama was conceived. He discussed the matter with George Moore, Edward Martyn, and Lady Gregory; and with the assistance of

2. W. B. Yeats: *Plays and Controversies*.

these three he founded the Irish Literary Theatre. When that theatre gave its first performance in Dublin in 1899, the Irish drama was born, and a new national drama was given to the world . . . So Ireland came at last to be represented in the theatre of the world.”<sup>1</sup> Yeats says that both Mr. Moore and Mr. Martyn dropped out of the movement after the third performance at the Irish Literary Theatre in 1901.

Yeats, though devoted much of his time and energy to this Irish Theatre, was not at all silent about his own works. Since 1897 his well-known books of poems are: *The Wind Among the Reeds* (1899), *Responsibilities and other Poems* (1914), *The Wild Swans at Coole* (1917), *Later Poems* (1922), and *The Tower* (1927).

His noteworthy volumes of essays are: *Ideas of Good and Evil* (1903), *The Cutting of an Agate* (1912), *Per Amica Silentia Lunae* (1918).

His most successful plays are: *The Land of Heart's Desire* (1894), *The Shadowy Waters*

1. Andrew E. Malone: *The Late Development in Irish Drama*. (Edinburg Review, April, 1927).

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## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS

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(1900), *On Baile's Strand* (1904), *The King's Threshold* (1904), *Deirdre* (1907), and *The Green Helmet* (1910).

In 1920, Yeats published four curious plays, called *Four Plays for Dancers*. Of these plays, Yeats says: "All must be played to the accompaniment of drum and zither and flute, but on no account must the words be spoken 'through music' in the fashionable way; and the players must move a little stiffly and gravely like marionettes and, I think, to the accompaniment of drum taps." (From Preface). *Four Plays for Dancers* is now included in his book called *Plays and Controversies* (1923).

Yeats is still a Director of the Irish Theatre. He is also one of the founders of the Irish Literary Society. In 1922, the Government of the Irish Free State nominated him as one of its first Senators.

In 1924, he was awarded the Nobel Prize "for his poetry which is always inspired, and gives expression in a rigidly artistic form to the spirit of a people."

Yeats is the embodiment of the spirit of pure poetry, a denizen of elfinland and a singer of mystic vision whose passionate worship of the muses knows no distraction.

One should not forget to note that Yeats has the habit of rewriting his works. And thus his 'collected edition in eight volumes published in 1908 has long been superseded.'

His chief writings are :—

(Published by Macmillan & Co., London.)

*Later Poems. Plays in Prose and Verse. Plays and Controversies. Essays. Early Poems and Stories. Responsibilities and other Poems. The Wild Swans at Coole. Stories of Red Hanrahan. The Cutting of an Agate. Ideas of Good and Evil. Tower. Autobiography. The Wind-ing Stair and other Poems.*

## WLADYSLAS ST. REYMONT (1868—1925).

Wladyslas St. Reymont was born on May 7, 1867 at Kobiele Wielkie in Russian Poland. He wrote early and died early. Whilst still a child, he attempted to translate Chopin's music into verse. He spent his youth in various occupations. He was first a store clerk, then a telegraph operator. He was an actor in an itinerant theatrical company. He also worked in the fields as a labourer. He even tried to enter into a monastery as a monk.

He began his literary career in 1893, with some realistic short stories. His first book, *The Pilgrimage to Jasna Gora*, appeared in 1895. It was followed by *The Comedienne* (1896), *Farments* (1897), and *Lily* (1899). All these achieved a moderate success and provided him with money, just enough to enable him to travel in Italy, England and some other places. While staying at Lodz, an industrial city, he produced a novel, called *Ziemia Obiecana* (The Promised Land), describing industrialism in Lodz. This earned for him the name of 'The Polish Zola.'

Emboldened by its success, he afterwards wrote a novel describing the real peasant life, called *The Peasants* (Chłopi). It appeared in four volumes and took full five years to complete (1904—09). It is a four volume novel describing the four season's labours of a peasant. Autumn, Winter, Spring, and Summer. *Spring* appeared in Polish in 1904—05 ; the other three 'seasons' in 1905—1909.

In 1924, Reymont was awarded the Nobel Prize "for his great national epic, *The Peasant*." He was the second Pole to win the prize, the first being Sienkiewicz.

Reymont died on 5th of December, 1925 just as he was receiving a general acknowledgment in the world.

His chief writings are :—

*The Promised Land.* Trans. by M. H. Dziewicki.

*The Peasants.* (Jarrolds).

*Before Dawn.*

*From a Diary.*

*The Storm.*

Reymont's novels now comprise twenty-three volumes.



## GEORGE BERNARD SHAW (1856—).

George Bernard Shaw, Irish dramatist and critic, was born on July 26, 1856, in Dublin. His father was high Sheriff of Kilkenny.

Shaw came to London in 1876, and devoted himself to socialism. He was art critic for four years to the "World," one year to "Truth," and then became musical critic to the "World." While he was thus engaged, his mother became known as an amateur singer 'because of her *mezzo soprano* voice of remarkable purity'. She gave tuitions in music and maintained the family mainly out of her own income. At intervals from 1879 to 1883, Shaw wrote five novels, *Immaturity*, *The Irrational Knot* (1880), *Love Among the Artists* (1881), *Cashel Byron's Profession* (1882), and *An Unsocial Socialist* (1883). It is said that when the 'Ms. of *Immaturity* was submitted to Chapman & Hall,

for consideration, George Meredith, as their literary reader, wrote 'No' on it. Shaw, thereupon, set aside fiction and took to writing drama. His first play *Widowers' Houses* appeared in 1892 and others soon followed: *The Philanderer*: A Topical Comedy on Ibsenism (1893), *Mrs. Warren's Profession*: A Play (1894), *Arms and the Man*: A Comedy (1894), *Candida* (1894), *The Man of Destiny* (1895), *You Never Can Tell* (1897). In 1898 all these plays were collected and published under the title *Plays: Pleasant and Unpleasant*.

In 1901, Shaw published *Three Plays for Puritans* which included: *The Devil's Disciple* (1897), *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1898), and *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* (1890).

The following three plays are now considered to be his greatest: *Heart Break House*, *Back to Methuselah*, and *Saint Joan*. His another notable play is *Man and Superman* (1903).

These plays made Shaw not only famous but rich also.

Shaw is very strict and particular about everything. He is even particular about the

printing of his books. He gives directions for the types that are to be used in printing his books. He is a strict vegetarian and teetotaller.

He is known throughout the world as a Fabian. In 1884, he joined the Fabian Society and was one of its prominent members. As a member of this Society he came in touch with Mrs. Annie Besant and his *Quintessence of Ibsenism* published in 1891 is the result of the paper on Ibsen which he had read under the auspices of the Fabian Society in 1890.

His another and admirable book *Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism* came out in 1928. And the latest important book from his pen undoubtedly is, *The Adventures of the Black Girl in her Search for God*. (1932). In it he expresses his views on Religion. To know his views on Christianity, one also should read the preface to his *Androcles and the Lion*.

Mr. Chesterton says: "Many people know Mr. Bernard Shaw chiefly as a man who would write a very long preface even to a short play." Shaw himself says: "All my prefaces are important."

On his works Shaw says: "I am not merely a gadfly that stirs men to think. My work viewed as a whole is constructive. I have laid a brick or two of the groundwork for a new gospel. Every play, every preface I wrote, conveys a message. I am the messenger boy of the new age. If you piece the various messages together, you will find an astonishing unity of endeavour, often, I admit, disguised and embroidered."

In 1925, Shaw was awarded the Nobel Prize "for his literary work, which is characterised both by idealism and by humanity, and whose lively satire is frequently associated with peculiar poetic beauty."

His opinion of the Nobel Prize is typical of him: "I can forgive Alfred Nobel for having invented the dynamite. But only a fiend in human form could have invented the Nobel Prize."

Shaw gratefully accepted the honour but generously refused the prize money. With it he founded an *Anglo-Swedish Literary Foundation*

for the furtherance of cultural relations between Great Britain and Sweden, and particularly to the publication of translations from Swedish into English and *vice-versa*. The income of the fund is about £400 a year.

His chief writings are :

(Published by Constable & Co., London).

*The Quintessence of Ibsenism, Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant, Three Plays for Puritans, Heart Break House, Back to Methuselah, Saint Joan, Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism, The Adventures of the Black Girl in her Search for God.*  
(1932).

His latest books: *Too True to be Good, Village Wooing, On the Rocks.*

## GRAZIA DELEDDA (1875——).

Grazia Deledda, Italian Novelist was born in Rome, in 1875. She came into world prominence in 1926, by being the recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature. The first Italian to receive such honour was Carducci.

Deledda was a born novelist and, as such, she started writing at a very early age. When she was hardly fifteen, she published her first novel *Sangue Sardo* and stirred the whole reading public in her native town of Nuoro, because no woman in her country, ever before did write novel or anything for the public. She also wrote many short stories.

*Marianna Sirca* and *Anime Oneste* are really the two novels with which Deledda succeeded in winning the public. Her another most successful novel is *L'Incendio nell'Oliveto*. But it is in *La Madre* (Mother) that she reaches the high water mark as a writer of novels.

In 1926, she was awarded the Nobel Prize for her *La Fuga in Egitto*. In awarding the prize the Swedish Academy says: "Whose works are inspired by high ideals, in her descriptions of life on her native island, which are rendered with the vividness of a painter, and who has treated general human problems with depth and sympathy."

Her chief writings are:—

*Marianna Sirca.*

*Anime Oneste.*

*Cenere.*

*L'Incendio nell' Oliveto.*

*La Madre.* English Version—*Mother.*

## HENRI BERGSON (1859——).

Henri Bergson, French philosopher, and member of the French Academy, was born on October 18, 1859. He came of Anglo-Jewish parents and spent early days of his childhood in London. He studied at the Lycee Fontane, Paris, the name of which has since been changed to Lycee Condorset. He was a brilliant scholar and is said to have taken prizes on every possible occasion. In 1878, he entered Ecole Normale Superieure and taught philosophy for three years. In 1889, he took his degree of *Docteur-es-Lettres* with distinction in philosophy. *Essai sur les immediates de la conscience* (1889) was the thesis for his doctorate. The same year, we find him at the *Lycee Henri Quatre* where he collected materials for his *Matiere et Memoire* (Matter and Memory) which appeared in 1896. In 1900, he became a Professor at the College de France



where he succeeded Gabriel Tarde and occupied the Chair of Modern Philosophy. 1907 appeared his greatest work, *L'Evolution Creatrice*. In 1931 he was again in England as President of the Society for Psychical Research. At Oxford, he delivered lectures on *La Perception du Changement*. In 1918 he occupied the seat vacated by Emile Ollivier at the Academy Francaise.

Bergson's all works are concerned with duration and movement. Joseph Solomon explains thus: "When says Bergson, to get a glass of sugar-water I melt sugar in water, the process undoubtedly has duration; I have to wait for its completion, and that waiting I more or less acutely feel. But observation—in which word we include the profoundest science—knows of nothing but the beginning and end of the process, or, if it can subdivide it into different processes, still of nothing but the beginnings and ends of these, for apprehending the process and the duration which is an inseparable feature of the process it has no organ."<sup>1</sup>

1. Joseph Solomon: *Bergson* (Constable).

Bergson himself admits that each of his books cost him several years of scientific research ; and each of them issues in no vague generalities but in conclusions which are able to throw light on some one aspect of very special problems.<sup>2</sup>

London Mercury says : "There was a time when all fashionable Paris flocked to his lectures and all philosophical Edgland was engaged in criticizing him, Lord Balfour as effectively as most."

In 1927 he was awarded the Nobel Prize "in recognition of his rich and life-giving ideas and resplendent art with which they have been presented."

His chief writings are :—

*The Immediate Data of Consciousness.*

*Matter and Memory.*

*Creative Evolution.* Trans. by Arthur Mitchell. (Macmillan).

2. Algot Ruhe and Nancy Margaret Paul: *Henri Bergson : An Account of his life and Philosophy.*

## SIGRID UNSET (1882—).

Sigrid Undset, Norwegian Novelist was born on May 20, 1882 at Kallundborg, Denmark. Her father was one of Norway's great historians and she, as his secretary, absorbed much of his knowledge and later made use of his manuscripts in writing her novels. She received her education at the Christiania Mercantile College. She started her life from the very low rung of the ladder. In 1899 she entered a city office as a clerk and now we find her as one of the most remarkable figures in the Norwegian literature. In 1907 she published *Fru Marta Oulie*. But the real starting point of her fame is her novel, *Jenny* published in 1912. The trilogy by which she became known to the English-speaking world and holds a position of her own to-day did not see the light till 1920. The name of this trilogy is *Kristin*

*Lavransdatter* (1920-22). In English translations they are as under :

Pt. I. *The Garland*.

Pt. II. *The Mistress of Husaby*.

Pt. III. *The Cross*.

Her another great work *Olav Audunsson* has been translated into English as *The Axe* (1928). It was followed by *The Snake-pit* in 1929.

J. E. S. Arrowsmith has given a correct estimate of her works in 'The London Mercury' in reviewing her book, called *The Son Avenger*. "Miss Undset writes," says Arrowsmith, "with the steady hand of the mature, the wise, the experienced matron. She is always, as it were, plunging her hand into the bag of human passions—domestic human passions—and examining her haul; but they are all, to borrow a stage phrase, quite "straight": they never deviate from the regular; the reactions they inspire are the reactions that are expected of humanity in stated circumstances. Miss Undset's bag is, to mix the metaphor like a peal of bells on which she rings the changes, but never monotonously."

She was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1928 :  
“ Principally with regard to her powerful  
pictures of Northern life in the mediaeval times.”

Her chief writings are :

*Kristin Lavransdatter.* In English  
translations : *The Garland, The*  
*Mistress of Husaby, The Cross.*

*The Axe.*

*The Snake-Pit.*

*The Son Avenger.* (Knoff).

*Jenny.* (Cassell).

## THOMAS MANN (1875——).

Thomas Mann, German author, was born on June 6, 1875 at Lubeck. He comes of an old patrician family. He started his literary career at the age of nineteen while working in an insurance office in Munich. After visiting Italy, he joined the staff of a journal and did much literary work. His first literary effort is embodied in a book called *Gefallen* (1894), which brought him sufficient recognition. In 1903 he published *Buddenbrooks* which now finds a place among the greatest novels of the twentieth century. Mr. J. B. Priestley says of this novel: "*Buddenbrooks*, written when the author was a young man and is one of the most successful of all modern German novels (it went through fifty editions in ten years), it is the study of an age, a locality, a social life, a family. *Boodenbrooks* begin as a very solid family, members of the

merchant nobility of Laubeck, and as one generation succeeds another and the weak dreamers take the place of the sturdy merchants, we watch the family decay.”<sup>1</sup>

Mann is also the author of many masterly written short stories. *Tristan*, a series of short stories appeared in 1903. Since 1915 came out several of his long novels, such as: *Tonio Kroger*, *Death in Venice*, *The Magic Mountain*, etc. But the *Buddenbrooks* remains still unsurpassed. The *Current History* of January, 1930, says of him: “Mann to-day is the recognized leader of German novelists. Strong in characterization, with a *teinte* of irony, he has a deep sense of the tragedy of human life, an almost Dostoyevskian intuition of the abysses of the human soul, combined with deep critical judgment of the vital weaknesses of modern society.”

In 1929, Mann was awarded the Nobel Prize “principally for his great novel ‘Buddenbrooks’—that in the course of years has received an increasing constant recognition as of the classic works of contemporary literature.”

<sup>1</sup> *London Mercury*. Nov. 1924.

His chief writings are :—

(Published by Martin Secker, London).

*Buddenbrooks.*

*Magic Mountain.*

*Death in Venice.*

*Early Sorrow.*

*Mario and the Magician.*



## SINCLAIR LEWIS (1885—).

Sinclair Lewis, American novelist, was born on February 7, 1885 at Sauk Center, Minn. He was educated at Yale University. After graduating in 1907, he took up journalism as his profession and soon came in touch with many well-known American publishing houses. When he wrote novels like *Our Mr. Wren* (1914) and *The Trail of the Hawk* (1915), nobody could guess that he would soon rise to a formidable stature. His reputation as a novelist was established with the publication of *Main Street* in 1920. But he did not reach the highest pinnacle of his fame till he published *Babbitt* (1922). It is one of the finest novels that has come out of America in this century. This book is just like a mirror. American reader, as he reads *Babbitt*, finds in the characters 'a bit of every American in them.' *Evening Standard* says: "Few books written in this century have had so

## AMERICAN RECIPIENT



SINCLAIR LEWIS

1930



profound, so wide, or so healthy an influence as Mr. Lewis's *Babbitt*. His next successful novel is *Martin Arrowsmith* (1924). It is a 'a satiric study of the medical profession.' It is also a recapitulation of all that he has written before. For *Martin Arrowsmith* Mr. Lewis was awarded the American Pulitzer Prize. He declined to accept it on the ground that such prizes are dangerous.

*Manchester Guardian* gives a correct estimate of his works in the following words: "As a writer his great achievement is the nailing down in fiction of a certain kind of mediocrity. One is aware of this mediocrity—not in any particular class, not in high places, but everywhere, like a quiet, gray fog. Mr. Sinclair Lewis has enshrined it in his books. And if he locates it in provincial America, it is not specially American, but is to be found wherever typewriters tap and wages are high and education is free and cinemas flourish and government is of the people by the people for the people, and lifts jog merrily up and down. Mr. Sinclair Lewis, in fact, has brought the middle classes up to date."

In 1930, Lewis was awarded the Nobel Prize "for his great and living art of painting life, with a talent for creating types, with wit and humour."

Mr. Lewis in his speech of acceptance at Stockholm, said some severe things about America: "We still mostly revere writers for the popular magazines who, in a hearty and edifying chorus, chant that the America of 120,000,000 population is still as simple and pastoral as it was when it had but 40,000,000; that in an industrial plant with 10,000 employees the relationship between the workers and manager still is as neighbourly and uncomplex as in a factory of 1840 with five employees; that the relationships between father and son and between husband and wife are precisely the same in an apartment in a thirty-story palace to-day, with three motor-cars awaiting the family below, five books on the library shelves, and a divorce imminent in the family next week, as were those relationships in the rose-veiled five-room cottage of 1880; that, in fine, America has gone through a revolutionary change from a rustic colony to

a world empire without having in the least changed the bucolic, puritanic simplicity of Uncle Sam. I want to close this dirge with a very lively sound of optimism. I have, for the future of American literature, every hope and every eager belief. We are coming out, I believe, of the stuffiness of safe and sane incredibility and dull provincialism. There are young Americans doing such passionate and authentic work that it makes me sick to see I am a little too old to be one of them."

His chief writings are :—

*Our Mr. Wrenn.*

*The Trial of the Hawk.*

*The Job.*

*Free Air.*

*Main Street.*

*Babbitt.*

*Martin Arrowsmith.*

*Mantrap.*

*Elmer Gantry.*

*Man Who Knew Coolidge.*

*Dodsworth.*

## ERIK AXEL KARLFELDT (1864—1931).

Erik Axel Karlfeldt, the Swedish poet and the permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy in Stockholm was born in 1864. His native province is Dalecarlia.

The readers cannot but feel pleasure to find that the Swedish Academy which awards the Nobel Prize for literature every year should ever think of awarding a prize to its own Secretary, Karlfeldt. The Swedish Academy, did not show any particular favour to Karlfeldt, when it awarded him the prize for the year 1931 with this inscription: For "the Poetry of Erik Axel Karlfeldt."

Karlfeldt was already one of the leading lyric poets of modern Sweden. His *Friddins Visor* (1898), *Fridolins lustgard* (1901), and *Flora och Pomona* (1906) are undoubtedly the greatest contributions to the modern Swedish poetry.

He died on April 8, 1931 just three months after receiving the Nobel Prize.

His chief writing is :

*Fridolin's Garden.*

## JOHN GALSWORTHY (1867—1933).

John Galsworthy, British novelist and dramatist, was born on August 14, 1867 at Coombe, Surrey. He was educated at Harrow and Oxford and was Honorary Fellow of the New College, Oxford.

Like many of the Nobel laureates, Galsworthy too prepared himself for the bar, but literary pursuits held a greater and lovelier attraction for him and he devoted himself to writing. He started his literary career by writing a novel *Joscelyn* at the age of thirty.

*The Man of Property* appeared in 1906 when he was forty, with this novel, he established his name and fame as a writer of great power and imagination. *The Man of Property* is the first novel of the sequence now known as *The Forsyte Saga*. It is now available in one volume, containing the three novels: *The*



*Man of Property*, *In Chancery*, *To Let* and the two interludes *Indian Summer of a Forsyte*, *Awakening*. 136,000 copies of this book have already been sold. To this list, the name of *On 'Forsyte Change now'* should be added. Galsworthy in the Foreword of this book says: "Before a long suffering public and still more long suffering critics, I lay this volume of apocryphal Forsyte tables, pleading the two excuses: That it is hard to part suddenly and finally from those with whom one has lived so long; and, that these footnotes do really, I think, help to fill in and round out the chronicles of the Forsyte family." Likewise, his another book, *A Modern Comedy*, contains the three novels: *The White Monkey*, *The Silver Spoon*, *Swan Song* and the two interludes *A Silent Wooing*, *Passers By*. With the publication of *Swan Song*, the third novel of his second trilogy, Galsworthy completed his social history of post-war society and brought down the curtain on the whole Forsyte drama.

In 1910 his play *Justice* brought him into the front rank of modern dramatists. 'He

was the first English dramatist of importance to adopt a strictly natural style of dialogue, in strong contrast to the laboured, rather stagey style favoured by Pinero and the dialectically over-charged manner of Bernard Shaw.' (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*.)

Frank Harris portrays Galsworthy, with his pen thus: "He is about medium height, spare of habit, and vigorous, his head long, well-shaped; his features fairly regular, a straight nose, high forehead; he is almost completely bald and wear glasses. His voice is very pleasant, clear and strong enough; he used it without much modulation; gets his effects rather by pauses than by emphasis; has every peculiarity of the writer and not the speaker."<sup>1</sup>

Galsworthy was not only an able craftsman but also a philanthropist. All his life, he placed himself at the service of humanity. *London Mercury* rightly says: "He has been a conscientious public servant who has worked very hard to promote international understanding

1. Frank Harris: *Contemporary Portraits* (3rd Series).

generally and international literary understanding in particular, especially through the P. E. N. Club. . . From the moral point of view he has never written a line that he need wish to blot."

In 1929 Galsworthy was given the O. M., but he refused the Knighthood.

There was a general satisfaction everywhere throughout the world, when the Swedish Academy awarded him the Nobel Prize for the year 1932, "for the distinguished power of description which attains its highest expression in the Forsyte Saga."

But alas, Galsworthy died (1933) just as he was receiving a general acknowledgment in the world.

His chief writings are :—

Published by William Heinemann Ltd.,  
London. *The Island Pharisees, The  
Country House, Fraternity, The  
Patrician, The Dark Flower, The  
Freelands, Beyond, Five Tales,  
Saint's Progress. The Forsyte Saga,*

*A Modern Comedy, Caravan, Captures  
Verses Old and New, Addresses in  
America, Memories, Maid in Waiting,  
Flowering Wilderness, Over the  
River.*

Issued by Duckworth & Co. Ltd. London.

*Plays :* Eight Vols.

*Complete Plays :* One Vol.

## IVAN ALEXEYEVICH BUNIN (1870—).

Ivan Alexeyevich Bunin, Russian writer and a member of the Russian Academy was born on October 10, 1870 at Voronesh.

His chief claim to fame is for the artistical skill displayed in his poetry. For his poems, he was awarded the Pushkin Prize which is regarded as the highest academic distinction in Russia.

Bunin is very fond of English Poems. He translated Tennyson's *Lady Godiva*, Byron's *Manfred and Cain* and Longfellow's *Hiawatha*. His translations retain much of the beauty and rhythm of the original.

He also holds highest place in Russian Literature for his realistic novels. He is already known in England for translations of his novels :

*The Gentleman From San Francisco, The Village, the Well of Days, Fifteen Tales.*

In reviewing the above mentioned books, "The New Statesman and Nation" of April, 14, 1934 says: "The only change which really stirs him is death. *The Village* is a long much-ado about running to seed; in *The Well of Days* the altar-piece is a funeral and the most vivid picture shows the dead body of the mare Kabardinka being eaten by dogs. Death is also the hero of eleven out of the *Fifteen Tales*. In *The Gentleman from San Francisco* he comes and "with a little pin" bores through the paraphernalia of wealth, its cocktails, its servants and its clothes. Power is powerless before him; the millionaire become merely a dead body to be got out of the way as quietly as possible lest it should disturb the amenities of the hotel."

Bunin lived in France since the Bolshevik revolution. He continues to reside at his Villa Belvedere in Grasse on the French Riviera.

"Bunin's Poetry is mainly descriptive—not lyric—impassive, of classic simplicity and harmony of Jewelled perfection, minute observation and vivid perception of colour." (Ency. Britannica).

His novels depict 'the Russian Character without adornment, the Russian soul, its peculiar complexity, its depths, both bright and dark, though, almost invariably tragic.'

In 1933, Bunin was awarded the Nobel Prize "for the firm artistical skill with which he has represented the Russian classical line in the art of poetical prose"

He is the first Russian to win the Nobel Prize.

His chief writings are :—

Published by Martin Secker, London.

*The Gentleman from San Francisco.*

*The Village.*

*An Evening in the Spring.*

*Dreams of Chang and other Stories.*

*Fifteen Tales.*

## LUIGI PIRANDELLO (1867.....)

Italian playwright and novelist was born on June 28, 1867 in Sicily. Till he attained the age of twenty-four, he passed his days in Rome. In 1891 he went to Germany and obtained his degree in Philosophy at the University of Bonn. He first started his career as a teacher at the Girls' High School in Rome. While thus engaged he wrote some literary essays in verse and published them in a volume entitled, *Mal giocondo* in 1889. His first novel, *L'esclusa* ( 1894 ) he wrote and produced at the request of a Sicilian friend. But due to some bitter realism contained in it, the novel could not be very popular. He also tried his hands at short stories, which from time to time earned some credit for him. His name was not established as a famous writer till he brought out another novel, *Il fu Mattia Pascal*. It is an unusual story of a man who lets his people know that he is dead and then tries to begin his life afresh in a new atmosphere and under a different name. Such attempts are bound to end in a failure.



The following lines as given in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* are worth quoting here for the proper understanding of his own art: "In 1920 he said of his own art, 'I think that life is a very sad piece of buffoonery; because we have in ourselves, without being able to know why, wherefore or whence, the need to deceive ourselves constantly by creating a reality (one for each and never the same for all), which from time to time is discovered to be vain and illusory. My art is full of bitter compassion for all those who deceive themselves; but this compassion cannot fail to be followed by the ferocious derision of destiny which condemns man to deception.'"

Pirandello commenced to write his plays for the first time since 1912. In him the dramatic form is a natural step from the novel and the short stories. His plays rapidly achieved success. His *dramatis personae* are from a lower middle class. At first many criticized Pirandello's dramatic art as being too "Cerebral" *i. e.* for not seeing life as it really is. Now chiefly as a playwright Pirandello is placed among the Nobel

Laureates. The first Italian to win such an honour was Giosue Carducci. Since 1925 Pirandello owns an Art Theatre in Rome. He once visited England with his company and produced his own plays in London with great success. His writings have been translated into many languages.

His chief writings in English are :—

*Fictions*.—Trans. by C. K. Scott Moncrieff  
and published by Chatto and  
Windus :

*Shoot !*

*The Old and the New.* 2 vols.

*Plays*.—Published by Dent :

*Three Plays.*

*Three Further Plays.*

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W. Starkie, *Luigi Pirandello*.

## EUGENE GLADSTONE O'NEILL (1888...)

Eugene Gladstone O'Neill, American dramatist and the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 1936, was born in October 16, 1888 in New York City. He received his education at several educational institutions, the last one being the Harvard University. After leaving his studies, he tried his hands at several professions. He first took the job of a sailor, and then that of an actor, but later he turned into a reporter of a newspaper. But his mind always dwelt on dramas and the technique of the stage. And as the saying goes "Out of evil cometh good", he had to be sent to a sanatorium because of his suspected tuberculosis. While staying there many new situations and incidents presented themselves before his eyes. Such impressions and experiences came very handy to him while writing his later plays. It is said that he lays down the plans of about 20 or 30 plays all at a time and then commences to work on them. Experimentation is still going on in all his works. While writing the plays, the stage-effect is also always kept in view.

It can be said that he is extremely fortunate since the very beginning of his dramatic career. No sooner had this early short plays been finished than they were produced at Provincetown by a group of Theatre Houses.

His most effective dramas are : *Beyond the Horizon*, *Emperor Jones*, *Love Among the Elms*, and the *Great God Brown*. He came so rapidly to fame that he was thrice awarded the Pulitzer Prize :

In 1920 for his play *Beyond the Horizon*.

In 1922 for *Anna Christie*.

In 1928 for *Strange Interlude*.

*Strange Interlude* really deals with a strange psychological matter. The theme can be put briefly thus :

Nina marries a man whom she respects but does not love. Shortly after her pregnancy she comes to know that her husband's family has a taint of insanity. She loses no time in effecting an abortion. She immediately likes to be conceived to make amends for the lost child. In this matter she seeks the advice of her mother-in-law concerning the course to be taken to

achieve it. She decides to have a child by a healthy male about whom she cared nothing. According to the plan, the consummation is to be scientific, objective, and loveless. The aim of this act is simply to establish a happy family. The consummation is effected with Ned Darrell, a young doctor, a close friend of both Nina and her husband. Maier and Reninger in their joint work "*A Psychological Approach to Literary Criticism*" rightly arrive at the following conclusion : " Knowing their previous acquaintanceship with one another, and knowing the tremendous power of sex as presented in the play, we are suspicious, and consequently see these two characters walking into another trap, acting again as unconscious instigators of their own defeat. ...And so it is throughout the play : willingly, yet unconsciously, the characters are helping to misery. In their very acts, designed to bring them happiness, they immerse themselves in tragedy. In attempting to get out they only dig themselves in."

Those who have had no opportunity either to read this '*Strange Interlude*' or to see it on the

screen, must be told here that Nina had also a third husband. What she thinks about her three husbands and the child which is supposed to be the son of all three, is told here in her own words :

“My three men ! ...I feel their desires converge in me ! ...to form one complete beautiful male desire which I absorb...they dissolve in me... I am pregnant with the three.... husband ! ....lover ! ...father .”

Mr. O'Neill has written his big dramas really very big. Even the film-version at times proves tiresome due to its enormous length, but there is something in his characters which has a secret appeal to the subconscious mind of his readers or audience and this saves the situation till the end of the drama.

All his characters are taken from the common strata of life, they are not new. The real charm and magic of O'Neill lie in his plot and to some extent in the technical manipulation of the stage.

He is now holding a position among the great English-speaking dramatists of the present

time. The literary world, therefore, gets elated at his success and gets sorely disappointed at his failure. The dramatic world did not receive well either *His Mourning Becomes Electra* or his new volume "*Ah ! Wilderness.*" But remembering his past success in '*Anna Christie*', '*The Emperor Jones*', '*Desire Under the Elms*', etc, the dramatic world is rather prepared to tolerate a period of silence than his complete collapse.

His other chief writings are :

*Thirst and Other One-Act Plays.*

*The Hairy Ape.*

*All God's Chillun's Got Wings and Welded.  
Fountain.*

*Marco Millions.*

*Lazarus Laughed and Dynamo.*

*Gold.*

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Nobel Prize Edition of the works of Eugene O'Neill has been recently issued by Messrs. Jonathan Cape. Each volume 5 \$ net.







